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With European weather

How his widow won the day

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No apologies, no regrets

'My personal view is that corporal punishment can be a useful deterrent to bad behaviour in schools. The Prime Minister takes a different personal view'

— Gillian Shephard at the Dispatch Box yesterday



Education Secretary Gillian Shephard... her 'brave remarks' about restoring the cane were praised by rightwingers but angered John Major

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

John Carvel, Rebecca Smithers and Michael White

JOHN Major and his Education Secretary were publicly at odds over corporal punishment in schools last night after the Prime Minister overruled Gillian Shephard's pro-cane views... and she unapologetically stood her ground at the Commons Dispatch Box. Coming less than a week after "choke and opportunity" in education emerged as a central theme of the last Queen's Speech programme before the election, the dispute over amendments to Mrs Shephard's new Education Bill ranked high among the self-inflicted wounds of an accident-prone government.

effectively outlawed in Britain 10 years ago.

It also reopened simmering backstairs manoeuvres for the Tory leadership succession if John Major is ousted after an election defeat next spring. Some conspiracy-minded MPs and educationists saw the Education Secretary re-polishing her rightwing credentials. They pointed to Michael Howard's reported support for the pro-cane shift.

What started as a routine interview on yesterday's Radio 4 Today programme — in which Mrs Shephard virtually solicited amendments for "a very useful deterrent" — rapidly led to an emergency phone call from Mr Major to the Surrey school she was visiting.

When reporters were told the pair had spoken to steady the wobbling cabinet line Downing Street toned down the exchange. Officials stressed that the Government remained anti-corporal punishment — and Mrs Shephard confirmed she would not be voting for her "different personal view". With Mrs Shephard's Education Bill due to be published this morning — expanding secondary selection, disciplinary powers and variety — the wobble offered the Opposition an opportunity to muddy the political waters and make the Government look even more divided.

Mr Major was taunted by Tony Blair and other MPs at Question Time and when the Queen's Speech debate resumed Mrs Shephard was forced to concede that she had been overruled by the Prime Minister.

When she later outlined the main measures in the bill she was harried to explain by MPs on both sides. She said: "My own personal view is that corporal punishment can be a useful deterrent... the Prime Minister takes a different personal view but the Government position is that we are not putting the restoration of corporal punishment into the bill."

But Mrs Shephard's enthusiasm for corporal punishment was clearly shared by some backbenchers who cheered loudly as the staunch rightwinger, Tony Marlow, praised her "brave remarks" and said he would be tabling

an amendment today to try to force caning through. The shadow education secretary, David Blunkett, claimed the day's events showed "a Government that has not got the first idea of what it is doing morning, noon and night".

Labour caused further embarrassment for Mrs Shephard last night by publishing a letter she received from the grant-maintained schools attacking her plans for making schools more selective as "a mish mash". John Edwards, secretary of the Association of Grant Maintained and Aided Schools, said her selection plans were "extremely divisive" for their schools, which would "resent changes in the admission arrangements to neighbouring schools that would distort the current level playing field."

There was also concern about two schools brought close to collapse by problems of indiscipline. In Halifax, Yorkshire, inspectors moved into the Ridings school and in Workson, Nottinghamshire, governors met to discuss the closure of a primary school.



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Anatomy of a dispute

8.10am: Gillian Shephard appears on Radio 4's Today to explain her new Education Bill.

8.17am: John Humphreys has spotted the Sun's "exclusive" in which she and the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, are reported to want to "bring back the cane to deal with classroom thugs". She all but invites Tory MPs and teachers to demand restoration but fails to say it is not government policy.

9am: Downing Street staff hear the story on BBC News and realise it is "capable of being misinterpreted". They alert Mr Major at his pre-Question Time briefing. 9.30am: After the briefing, Downing St officials ring the Department for Education to talk to Mrs Shephard. The department contacts her on a platform at Waterloo via her mobile phone. They agree she should ring from the sixth floor centre at Heathside school, Weybridge, which she is to open.

10.20am: Mrs Shephard is called, mid-speech, to take Mr Major's 15-minute call in the head's study. "Could you assure us you're still Education Secretary?" quips the mayor, Hugh Ashton, when she returns. "Yes, and you'll be glad to know the Prime Minister is still the Prime Minister," she replies. 11am: Downing Street officials inform reporters of the exchange at the morning briefing for lobby correspondents. It prompts "Major Gives Gillian Six of the Best" headlines in papers. 3.15pm: Major taunted by

Tony Blair and Labour MPs at Question Time. 4pm: Downing Street tones down remarks to reporters. The Prime Minister and Mrs Shephard are merely getting the agreed government line straight. "No question of the PM rebuking or rapping the knuckles of Mrs Shephard," that is nonsense. "The two are old friends. 4.20pm: Mrs Shephard makes no attempt to hide her dispute with Mr Major. She has her personal view. He has his. But "we are not putting the restoration of corporal punishment into the bill".

City boss trades places

King

HE IS one of the City's top performers, earning £220,000 a year as finance director of a £900 million multinational company. No longer.

Cynics regard the Square Mile as a citadel of greed, but John Martyn, aged 53, is leaving Dalgety, the pet food group, to do voluntary work on behalf of the homeless. Mr Martyn will spend more time working at the Gatehouse drop-in centre in Oxford, where he and his wife Frances, already help. He also plans to devote more time to the Warrford and Littlemore hospitals, which care for the mentally ill in the Oxford and Banbury areas. He said: "My wife and I



John Martyn: helping needy

have been interested for a long time in helping people who are less well off than we are, and although it might seem unusual, I wouldn't want it to be seen as making an amazing step — lots of people do it." Encouraged by Mrs Mar-

lyn, who helped set up the centre, Mr Martyn first became involved in the house project — run jointly by a number of Oxford churches — five years ago.

He added: "It isn't just a case of making tea and sandwiches for people — counselling is one of the most important things the centre does. Sitting down with people and listening to their problems is equally important."

Caroline Zveginzov, secretary and joint co-ordinator at the project, said that Mr and Mrs Martyn — who are both Christians — were among around 100 volunteers who helped out regularly.

Mr Martyn is not turning his back on the corporate scene completely, and will retain a non-executive directorship at retailing group Littlewoods.

Race is to the Swift as favourite's 'wonderful book' takes Booker

Dan Gleister Arts Correspondent

GRAHAM Swift's novel Last Orders opens with the words: "It ain't like your regular sort of day." Yesterday certainly was not a regular sort of day for Swift as he won the £20,000 Booker Prize at a ceremony at the Guildhall.

It was, however, the sort of day the bookmakers had predicted. Last Orders led the betting from the announcement of the shortlist, being even favourite when the book closed yesterday.

Last year the bookmakers were caught out when Pat Barker's The Ghost Road won, beating the favourite, The Moor's Last Sigh by Salman Rushdie.

One judge will be happy this year. When reviewing Last Orders, A. N. Wilson advised Evening Standard readers to bet £1,000 on the novel winning the Booker.

Carmen Calli, chair of the judges, said: "Choosing the winner was absolute torture but we eventually settled on Last Orders, a wonderful book that will give pleasure to thousands of people."

Swift's novel, his sixth, tells the story of a day outing from Bermondsey to Margate to scatter a butcher's ashes at sea. In common with some of the other authors on this year's shortlist, Mr Swift had been nominated for the Booker Prize before — in 1983 for Waterland. Two "Booker brides" Turn to page 2, column 3

Kurd woman dies in third suicide bomb

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

ASUICIDE bomber blew herself up as Kurdish separatists disrupted Republic Day celebrations in Turkey yesterday. It was the third suicide bombing, all involving women, in recent months, representing a new tactic by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The PKK did not immediately claim responsibility for the blast but the authorities blamed the outlawed organisation. The woman had been picked up for questioning in Sivas in central Turkey. She exploded the bomb as the car approached the police station. Three police officers and a passer-by were killed, and nine people injured.

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... CRISIS IN... CENTRAL AFRICA
URGENT APPEAL FOR AID
What has been described as a 'tragic human river' 25 kilometers long is desperately fleeing the fighting in Zaire. Such is their panic that thousands of refugees are even returning to Rwanda, the country they fled only two years ago.
Innocent men, women and children who thought they had escaped the bloodshed now face misery again. With fear and desperation comes disease and starvation. Food supplies will last just five more days. The Red Cross urgently needs your help to provide vital food, clean water and medical aid.
Phone now to give your donation or complete the coupon below. Please give as much as you can, just £25 will help provide an entire family with food and water. Your money can help the Red Cross save lives.
Please call now with your credit card donation.
0345 315 315
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Or you can send a cheque or postal order with the coupon below.
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Now please send this coupon with your donation to THE CARES IN CENTRAL AFRICA APPEAL, BRITISH RED CROSS, ROOM 413, FINSBURY LANE, LONDON, E2C 7EA
*A donation of £250 or more is worth a third as much again through Gift Aid as we can claim back the tax.
 Please tick this box if you do not want to receive further information on the Red Cross.
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Sketch

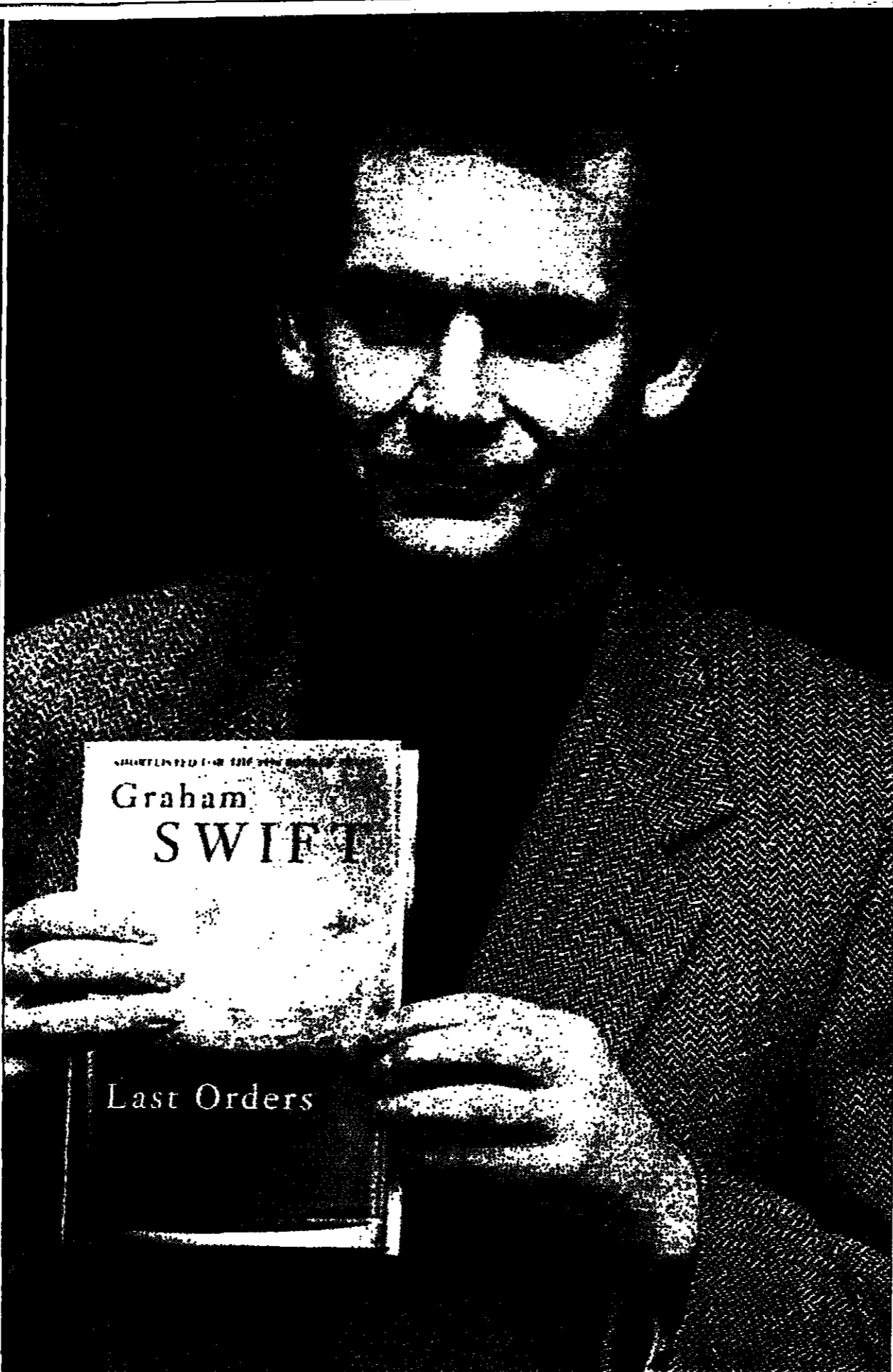
First crawler looks for a new Korea



Simon Hoggart

PRIME MINISTER'S Questions were only two minutes old when we heard the First Crawler of the Fall. It's that melancholy, autumnal time of year, season of mists and mellow greatness, when MPs seize their final chance to bumfuck to the boss before the nights close in. Mr Andrew Rowe (C, Mid Kent) rose, apropos of nothing, to ask Mr Major about his "visit to Korea, one of the most successful, if not the most successful, visit abroad by a Prime Minister in our recent history... leading to billions of pounds of investment..."

programme saying she will bring back corporal punishment in schools — only to be reprimanded in minutes by the Prime Minister, apparently on his mobile phone from the train! "Don't you hate those people who use mobile phones on trains? Usually all they want to do is boast that they are on a train. I assure you, you hear me Justin? I'm on a train. Yes, Clapham Junction. Get back to you soon." Blip blip beeeep! "Hello, Jeremy you old bastard! Yes, I'm on a train..." One way of shutting these people up is to sit next to them and, conspicuously craning your neck, take a careful note of what they are saying. If they complain it's a private conversation, say "Oh, I'm sorry. You were shouting so loudly, I assumed you wanted us to hear everything..." But the Prime Minister is a new peril. "Gillian? Yes, I'm on a train. Look, if we hear any more of this corporal punishment nonsense I'll have you thrashed to within an inch of your... damn, it's cut out..."



Booker winner Graham Swift and his "wonderful book that will give pleasure to thousands" PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ANGLIS

Review

Question time for fraudster's friends

Roy Greenslade

Maxwell — The Downfall Inside Story Special, BBC1

WHO says television is the fastest medium? It has taken five years since Robert Maxwell's death, four years since his sons were charged, nine months since they were acquitted and six weeks since all other charges were dropped before we could see this fascinating, forensic account. BBC1's Inside Story Special: Maxwell — The Downfall was riveting. Not because the story was shockingly new, but because it was being screened at last. Here was a visual record of corruption, a filmed record of the great and the good paying court to a fraudster. The hairdresser captured his vanity in a sentence. The butler explained his extravagant greed. The chauffeur gave us an unforgettable portrait of a man on the edge of the abyss. We watched senior politicians smiling and nodding, a credible con-man as they enjoyed his sumptuous 65th birthday feast: the oleaginous Jonathan Aitken, the faintly embarrassed Malcolm Rifkind and the sipping Harold Wilson. Then came confirmation of Maxwell's City status with a flattering speech from that smoothest of Square Mile fixers, Sir Michael Richardson. Among these wonderful moments there was none better than the footage of Maxwell dictating his own publicity material while his then chief of staff, Peter Jay, hovers in attendance, the voice-over intoning: "Unquestioning executives helped to mould Maxwell's image..."

ing of his slaughtered mother and family, we cannot see his life as anything other than a cycle of tragedy. But Bower's film should not be seen as a history lesson. Even now, so many people have questions to answer. By holding fast to sub judice rules while Kevin and Ian faced fraud charges, they were able to maintain their silence. Now the brothers are cleared it is time for us to help us pensioners, employees, the rest of the City, Parliament, all of us — with our legitimate inquiries. During the court case it was clear from both prosecution and defence evidence that the grossly inflated sales of insurance policies for Maxwell were the result of a well-oiled scam. Bower urges us to ask the following questions. Why did Coopers & Lybrand fall to spot that pension fund certificates were missing during the audit? Why did the legal firm Timmus Sainer & Webb not question certain dubious property deals? Why did brokers and bankers give a man they knew to be dodgy the title of deputy? Then there are the highly paid employees. Why did a director of Maxwell's pension fund investment company, Lord Donoghue, refuse to reveal Maxwell's activities, even though he quit because of them? Surely it cannot have been a £50,000 pay-off? Why did Peter Walker, supposedly hired to become chairman, not reveal to the world that the company was in more trouble than the public accounts indicated? Surely his silence had nothing to do with his £500,000 pay-off? Why did two Mirror Group directors, Sir Robert Clark and Alan Clements, wait eight weeks before acting after managing director Ernie Burgess told them that Maxwell had removed £38 million from the company? Burrenford offered one answer: "They thought it was for someone else to sort out." It could be the motto of all who came into contact with Maxwell. It's a tribute to Bower that he, almost alone, has never left it to anyone else. And he fought tenaciously to ensure that the BBC lived up to its promise by screening last night's documentary. Now we need the answers.

Booker Prize goes to the favourite

Booker Prize winner

continued from page 1 Orders is his sixth novel. Two Booker bridesmaids were again left at the altar. Beryl Bainbridge, who has been nominated for the Booker three times, lost out, as did Canadian author Margaret Atwood, who has been shortlisted twice. The other shortlisted authors were Shena Mackay for 'The Orchard on Fire', Rohinton Mistry for 'A Fine Balance', and Seamus Deane for 'Reading in the Dark'. The announcement of the winner was almost overshadowed by the sort of publicity on which the Booker thrives. A bad-tempered outburst from author V.S. Naipaul, a previous winner, was followed by an attack on critics by the chair of the judges, Carmen Callil. Mr Naipaul, who won the prize in 1971, said: "The Booker is murder. Absolutely nothing would be lost if it withered away and died. It is useless. I have no regard for it at all." In the past, Mr Naipaul has argued that the novel as genre is dead. Martyn Goff, administrator of the Booker Prize, responded, saying: "I find it extraordinary that someone who has won the Booker Prize himself — and was very pleased with winning it — should now turn and rubbish it."

Booker Prize winner Graham Swift. Born: Catford, 1949; father a civil servant. Educated: Dutch College, Cambridge and York universities. Abandoned an academic career to become a writer (PhD thesis, 'The City in Nineteenth-Century English Literature' later substituting by teaching. Early accolades: his first two novels, 'The Sweet Shop Owner' (1980) and 'Shutout' (1981), put him on Granta magazine's groundbreaking 1983 list of the 20 Best Young British Novelists, along with Martin Amis and Julian Barnes. Defining moments: the publication of 'Waterland', also in 1983. A ferocious family saga, it won the Guardian Fiction prize, had him as Booker favourite that year and was made into a film starring Jeremy Irons. Fall from grace: the two books that followed 'Waterland', 'Out of This World' (1987) and 'Ever After' (1992), are constantly cited as failures by critics. Themes: death; impossibility of escaping the past; family; Darwinism. Reputations: technical proficiency (particularly at creating 'voices', as in 'Last Orders'); not likely to suffer fools gladly; dislikes the business of promoting his books. Extract: Lenny says, 'Don't encourage him, Vic.' Vic says, 'A hearse is different, everyone makes way for a hearse.' Lenny says, 'You mean they don't make way for Vic's hearse?' Vic sits in the front beside Vince, holding the box on his knees. I can see it's how it should be, Vic being the professional, but it doesn't seem right he should hold it all the time. Maybe we should take it in turns. Vince looks across at Vic. He says, smiling, 'Busman's holiday, eh, Vic?' Vince is wearing a white shirt with silver cufflinks, and pony after-shave. His hair is all slicked back. It's a brand new suit. We head on past the gas works, Ilkerton Road, under the railway bridge, Prince of Windsor. The sun comes out from behind the tower blocks, bright in our faces, and Vince pulls out a pair of chunky sun-glasses from under the dashboard. Lenny starts singing, stily, through his teeth, 'Blue Bayou... And we all feel it, what with the sunshine and the beer inside us and the journey ahead: like it's something Jack has done for us, so as to make us feel special, so as to give us a treat. Like we're off on a jaunt, a spree, and the world looks good. It looks like it's just there for us. From Last Orders (Pleasure, £15.99)

advised to start negotiating a deal for his next novel now. Ms Callil, the founder of Virago Press and chair of this year's judging panel, attacked critics for praising the American novel at the expense of English fiction. "A clique of critics have hovered in the shade of American fiction admiring their pistol-packing approach," she said. "It means that great English writers have been overlooked." "They are in a no-win situation. There has been this obsessive designation going on. These critics believe that because English novelists are no longer the greatest in the world, they must be the worst." Ms Callil said that critics should read more. "I don't think they read enough and I don't think they've read half the books nominated this year." Ms Callil had to read almost 150 books between April and October to judge this year's Booker. The other judges were Jonathan Coe, Ian Jack, A. L. Kennedy and A. N. Wilson.

Howard 'to blame' as swindler goes free

Extradition failure after row over 'chief engineer' of BCCI scandal

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE "chief engineer" of one of the biggest banking scandals in British criminal history is to be released from Brixton prison today after serving only four years inside because of an international row over his extradition. A High Court judge yesterday rebuked the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, for his role in the case, saying he had taken a personal interest only two months ago. "Had he done so 12 months ago matters might have been different," said Lord Justice Rose. Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, aged 52, was jailed at the Old Bailey for six years for his role in the Bank of Commerce and Credit International fraud. The bank was shut down in July 1991 by worldwide regulatory action after investigators discovered a fraud worth up to \$20 billion dollars (£12.5 billion). Akbar, who lived in Golders Green, north London, was immediately arrested on his release in September 1988 after serving three years of his six-year sentence because the US authorities had started extradition proceedings against him. They wanted him to face trial on new blackmail charges of accepting a \$15 million bribe (\$25 million) from BCCI as "this price for not disclosing to a US senator details of corruption." Akbar has since spent 14 months in custody while an international argument involving Britain, France and America has raged over whether the papers were in order for him to be sent to the US. "The time has come to say enough is enough. He is discharged from custody forthwith," said Lord Justice Rose

yesterday. He added that he was "wholly unpersuaded" that the Home Office had shown why he should not be freed under legislation which sets a two month limit on the time spent in custody awaiting extradition. Lord Justice Rose said the Home Office did nothing for seven months despite the seriousness of the case. "During the last two months the Home Secretary has shown a personal interest in this case. Had he done so 12 months ago matters might have been different." The problems facing the Home Secretary began when Akbar fled to France on being paroled in 1991 during a separate 18 month sentence for drug trafficking. Britain and America applied for his extradition on separate charges. Britain wanted him for the BCCI false accounting charges while the US wanted him on money laundering allegations. The French sent him back to Britain to stand trial at the Old Bailey and the original American charges were dropped under the "double jeopardy" rule. When the Americans asked Britain for extradition of Akbar on the \$15 million blackmail charges, the French insisted they still had the right to see fresh witness statements and to consider the US request before Britain made a decision. The French Ministry of Justice complained that the documents sent by the Home Office were inadequate. After lengthy delays the French said a court decision would be reached in 1996. Home Office lawyers argued that Akbar should not be freed as he was the "author of his own misfortune" once he had fled to France but Lord Justice Rose said this argument did not bear examination.

Cardinal in new attack on Blair

Erlend Clouston

CARDINAL Thomas Winning, the leader of the Scottish Catholic Church, yesterday refused to back down in his row with Tony Blair over Labour's abortion policy, urging Roman Catholics to examine their consciences before they vote in a general election. The 71-year-old cardinal made clear his continuing personal distaste for the Labour Party's parliamentary voting record on what he termed "perhaps the most serious issue of our times". However, he stopped short of calling for a mass defection of Labour's Catholic support, and even suggested the party's political pedigree compensated for its "anti-life" fallibility. Discussing his vote at the next election, the cardinal pointedly remarked that — if he was looking beyond the single abortion issue — "the Labour Party has done a great deal for this country." He also indicated he would be prepared to meet Mr Blair "once the dust has settled". The qualified clerical endorsement will be cherished by Labour, which yesterday further extended an olive branch first offered in a fax to Scottish Roman Catholic headquarters accepting that the cardinal's televised references to "sham" Christian values were not directed at Mr Blair personally. In a three-sentence response to the cardinal's comments yesterday, deputy shadow Scottish secretary John McFall welcomed the "assurances" that the cardi-

nal's remarks had been "directed to all political parties". Labour indicated Mr Blair had always been willing to enter dialogue with Cardinal Winning, but had not been asked for a meeting other than through the media. But Cardinal Winning, while conceding there was little to choose between the parties on the abortion issue, continued to single out Labour for criticism. He justified this because of the past decision of the Scottish executive to exclude a pro-life stall from the party's 1994 conference, the party's official policy of upholding the 1967 Abortion Act, and the likelihood of a Labour victory at the general election. "The Labour Party is likely to be the next government, so it's very important for voters to know exactly where they stand on the issue," he said. "I leave it to the Catholic people themselves to make up their own minds about how they vote, having considered in their own conscience what they have to do." The cardinal is particularly worried at the reported plans of Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, Mo Mowlam, to extend the 1987 act to the province. In a clear allusion to Mr Blair, he said yesterday: "How can you say that you are against abortion and it is a matter of conscience, and go and vote for it?" The abortion issue has a particular sensitivity in Scotland, where Labour support among underprivileged Catholics has been coming under pressure from Scottish nationalists.

Calais shopping begins with sea... Dover/Calais over 140 crossings daily... Take the shortest sea route to France and cross the Channel to Calais. Cruise from Dover on a luxurious car ferry or hop on a hovercraft or catamaran. With duty free shops, restaurants and entertainment all on board and departures around every half hour, what could be easier? Take in the sights, enjoy a bite, even stay for the night. You'll be spoilt for choice with the many shops, hypermarkets, hotels and restaurants. And you'll be ready to begin your journey into Europe. For a special day or a longer stay, remember, Calais begins with sea.

Mauerb... Austria yesterday its murky past... Surprise... Non-Established to provide key... New gun lobby... For refer... from... spec... Mag... Fro...

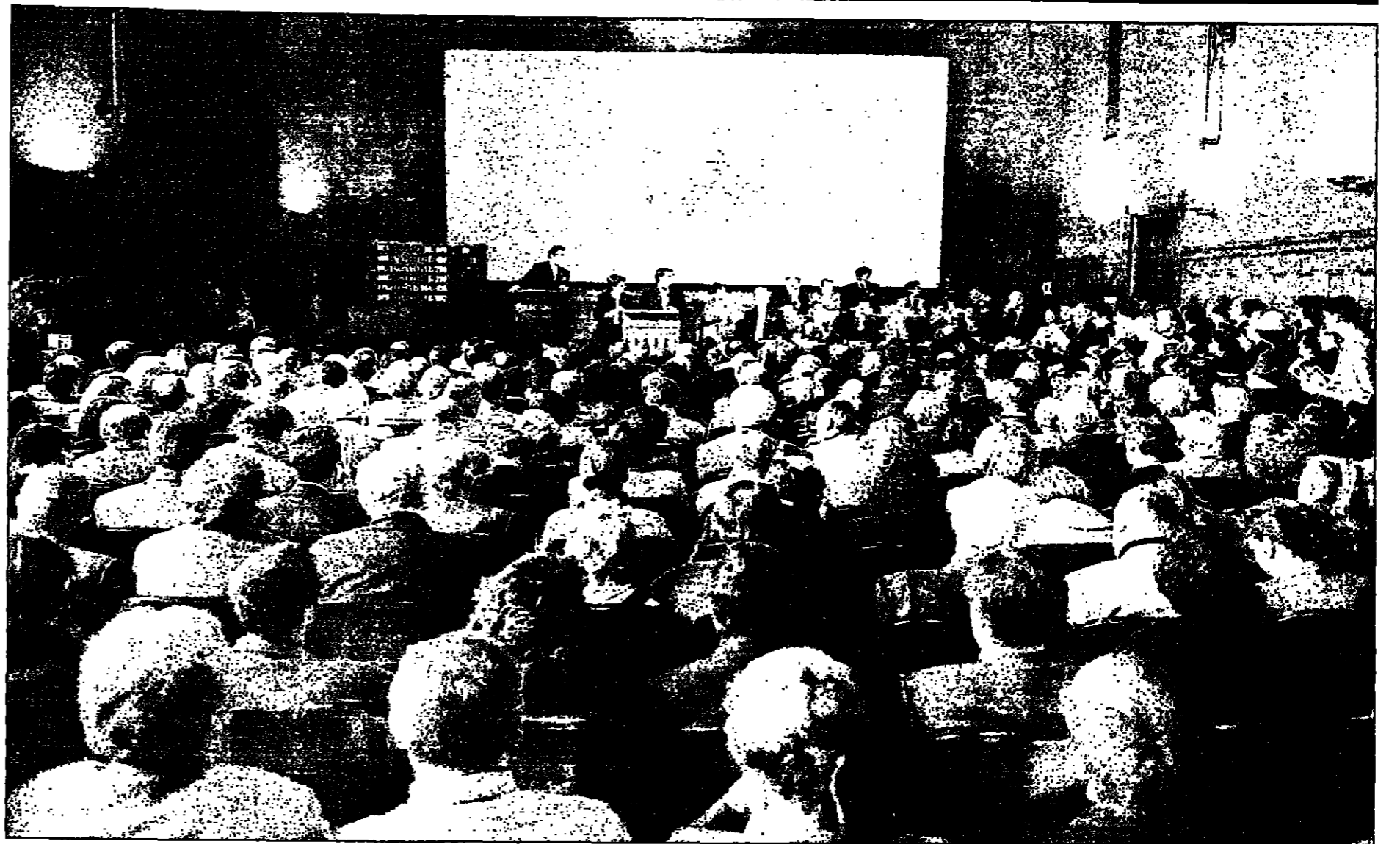
Mauerbach Collection auctioned



This Abraham Mignon oil painting fetched a record £300,000

Huge prices and high emotions as Nazis' plundered art goes home to rest

Austria yesterday moved to confront its murky past. Ian Traynor reports



Bidders pack Vienna's Museum of Applied Arts yesterday for the charity auction of Jewish art stolen by the Nazis. Proceeds will go to aid Holocaust victims PHOTOGRAPH: RONALD ZAK

THE first charity auction of Jewish art looted by the Nazis surpassed all expectations amid poignancy and high emotion in Vienna yesterday. By lunchtime on the first of the two-day sale, Christie's catalogue guide prices were shredded as items fetched more than 10 times the estimate. Hundreds of dealers packed Vienna's Museum of Applied Arts for the sale of the "Mauerbach Collection" — more than 8,000 paintings, antiques and prized family possessions stolen by the Nazis from Viennese Jews during the Holocaust. The cache was hidden in a derelict monastery outside Vienna for decades while the Austrian authorities discouraged claims from Holocaust survivors or relatives of the victims. The government bowed to pressure last year and turned the collection over to Austria's small Jewish community, which brought in Christie's to organise the sale. The auction house is offering its services on a non-profit basis. Eighty-eight per cent of the proceeds will go to aid Jewish victims of the Holocaust, and 12 per cent will go to non-Jewish Austrian survivors. A London art dealer, Richard Green, shelled out almost £800,000 for an Old Master oil painting of peonies, roses and tulips by Abraham Mignon (1640-78), the highest price ever fetched by a Mignon. The Christie's catalogue valued it at about 150,000 pounds. With 150 of the 1,000-plus lots sold by lunchtime, the takings had already exceeded the Christie's total estimate of £3 million. "Prices are going sky high. Emotions are also very high," said Julia Hobsbawm who helped to organise the sale. "It's so moving. It's the first restitution art sale, and it's also the culmination of the emotions associated with it." Ronald Lauder, a former United States ambassador to Austria who is co-chairman of the auction benefit committee, said most overseas bids were from Jews "who wanted this as a remembrance of a time that was". Israel's Yad Vashem and Tel Aviv museums, as well as many US Jewish organisations, were among the potential buyers. For Austria, the sale offered an opportunity to come clean on its past. "The historic doctrine here was always that Austria was Hitler's first victim," said Robert Liska, the vice-president of Vienna's Jewish community, who negotiated for years with the government over the loot. Franz Vranitzky, the country's embattled chancellor, admitted that the sale should have taken place years ago. "It's a signal that could have, and should have been sent much earlier," he said. While Germany spent much of the 1960s and 70s openly seeking to come to terms with its wartime past, Austria, Hitler's native land, wove a web of lies. In 1943, the Allies declared Austria the Nazis' first victim, in reference to Hitler's annexation in 1938. It was only in 1991 that Mr Vranitzky admitted that Austria had been both victim and accomplice of Nazism. On a trip to Israel in 1983, he went further in apologising for Austria's role in the Holocaust. At a dinner on the eve of yesterday's sale he was more forthright still. "The Mauerbach charity auction again brings up the darkest chapter in Austrian history," Mr Vranitzky said. "For far too long we repressed how much Austrians were co-responsible for what was done to millions of people of Jewish faith. "We now know that many Austrians were directly involved in the Holocaust... as commanders and supervisors in countless concentration camps, as SS members, occasionally as army soldiers, or as Nazi party members and sympathisers." Fran Lauffer, a Holocaust survivor, travelled to the auction from New York "out of nostalgia". She intended to bid on the single piece of Judaica in the collection, a painting by the 19th-century artist Ludwig Knauts called "In the Street". "It is such a mixed feeling", she said, eyes welling up. "All this that has happened to me is coming back." She looked down and found the measure of her emotions — the mismatched boots she pulled on to rush to the sale: one brown ankle-length, the other black and knee-high.



'The auction again brings up the darkest chapter in Austrian history'

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, left

Surprise QC for Hamilton inquiry

'Non-Establishment figure' to provide key legal advice

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

PARLIAMENT yesterday appointed a blues guitar-playing QC, who has represented Amnesty International and road protesters, to provide the key legal advice to the controversial "cash for questions" inquiry. Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, surprised the legal establishment yesterday by asking Nigel Fleming, to assist him in sorting out the high profile inquiry into former minister Neil Hamilton, and lobbyist Ian Greer and their involvement with Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods owner. Legal colleagues of Mr Fleming said he was a "non-establishment figure".

Details of Mr Fleming's appointment were published yesterday in a special report from the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee. David Doig, as former registrar of members' interests, is also to assist Sir Gordon in his inquiries. The report gives no timetable or scope for the inquiry, which is expected to cover more than 30 MPs, including those who received help from Ian Greer towards their election fighting fund. The report says: "The commissioner is currently seeking to establish the precise allegations in each case and to assemble the supporting evidence he requires. When he has done so, the commissioner will inform the members concerned of the allegations against them. The commissioner will then determine whether there is a prima facie evidence of case to answer and, where possible, reach conclusions on whether the allegations have been substantiated." The report warns that anyone who tries to mislead Sir Gordon will be seen to be in contempt of the House of Commons. Sir Gordon's inquiry will be held in private, unless MPs decide to hold their own inquiry into his report after he has sent it to the committee. Mr Fleming, a 50-year-old vicar's son, is a fan of the singer Louisa Wainwright and attends life classes at art school. He also plays tennis and cricket in Notting Hill, west London, and reads the Guardian and the Times. Mr Fleming went to a Lincolnshire grammar school and was educated at Kingston Polytechnic and University College, London. He has represented charities and protest groups as well as being the QC who unsuccessfully represented Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, when he first tried to ban asylum seekers receiving benefits. He has also represented the World Development Movement — in its fight to force the Government to review its overseas aid policy in the wake of the illegal aid to build the Pergau dam in Malaysia — and protestors and ecologists who saved the mediaeval Oxleas Wood in Shooters Hill, south London, from a road scheme. Yesterday he finished putting the case for a judicial review against the Radio Authority which sought to ban them advertising on commercial radio. Yesterday his office said: "We cannot comment on his role but he does admit to playing the blues guitar badly and his painting is even worse."

New gun lobby group claims 10,000 members in 10 days

ANew gun lobby group, which has threatened to set up a new political party to oppose plans for a ban on handguns, says it has recruited nearly 10,000 members in its first 10 days. The Sportsman's Association was founded by angry gunsmiths and shooters in response to Government proposals to make most handguns illegal. Organisers say they are hoping to sign up 1 million disaffected sportsmen to create a pressure group strong enough to force ministers to back down. But anti-gun campaigners dismissed the threat and said the weight of public opinion will ensure the Government does not sway from its position. The Sportsman's Association claims banning handguns will wipe out 2,000 jobs, cost the taxpayer more than £1 billion pounds in compensation, and jeopardise Britain's chances of hosting the Commonwealth Games. It argues the ban will not make the streets safer, only destroy legitimate livelihoods and hobbies. The chairman, Albie Fox, said the group was set up to force its message home to the Government. Recruits so far include Olympic shooter Sarah Cooper, aged 47, as well as a cross section of shooters and gunsmiths whose sport is being virtually ended as a result of the decision to ban all handguns bigger than the .22 calibre weapons used for Olympic events. The ban, forced through by the Government against pressure from the Opposition parties for a total ban on handguns, came after the report into the Dunblane massacre and the way that the killer, Thomas Hamilton, had easy and little-controlled access to weapons and ammunition. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have pledged to extend the ban to .22 guns if they gain power in the general election. Ann Pearson, an organiser of the Dunblane Snowdrop Petition signed by 750,000 people calling for a ban on all handguns, said she did not believe the association would ever build enough momentum to persuade the Government to change its mind. "The Government has stated its position which is close to ours and I don't see that it can back down from that without a public backlash," she said. "In fact, I'm surprised they (the association) haven't managed to get more members. There are 57,000 handgun owners in this country."

For the others work began at 6.30. They ate in the refectory in silence as Sister Breige read passages from the Catholic Standard and were forbidden to speak of their lost babies. Maggie O'Kane on the women time forgot

G2 Front

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Midland's mortgages are subject to security and status. A charge will be taken over the property and appropriate life policies. The following example illustrates monthly repayments for a typical capital-repayment fixed-rate mortgage of £40,000 over 25 years with interest fixed at 7.99% until 30/11/2001. Thereafter, interest is charged at our variable rate. Estimated costs and fees are based on a valuation of purchase price of £55,000 and include an estimated valuation fee of £110 although this may vary according to the property's value. A £250 booking fee is payable when the application is agreed in principle. Booking fee is refunded for first-time buyers only on completion. In addition to figures quoted below, premiums for the required mortgage protection policy are payable. £3 net monthly payments of £281.81 followed by 237 net monthly repayments of £264.56. Total gross amount payable £27,597.49 (APR 7.8%). All APRs variable. For a written quotation, call 0800 494 999. All calls are recorded and monitored. Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Financial Services Authority and only advises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. Denise and Geoff are fictional characters but their story is based on real Midland customers. B1/46.



Meet Denise and Geoff.

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They called 0800 494 999 for a quote.



Denise and Geoff are starting a family, so they'd like to take as few risks with their finances as possible. Interest rates are low at the moment, but Denise and Geoff — particularly Denise — aren't counting on them staying that way. So they've fixed their repayments until the year 2001 with a mortgage from Midland Bank. You can do the same by calling 0800 494 999 between 9am and 8pm from Monday to Friday or by meeting a mortgage specialist at any Midland branch.

MIDLAND The Listening Bank Member HSBC Group

Joint attempt to avoid ambush of constitution bills Lib-Lab body set up to speed reforms

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats yesterday embarked on the biggest exercise in cross-party co-operation for 20 years by setting up a high-powered body to discuss a joint approach to constitutional reform.

Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, and Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat constitutional spokesman, announced at a joint Commons press conference the formation of the body, which has the blessing of the two leaders, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown.

Mr Cook and Mr MacLennan strenuously denied the move was intended to lead to a pact, although the Tories swiftly claimed that it was. The Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, said: "The Lib-Lab pact which laid Britain low in the 1970s is back. I pleased that the Liberal Democrats are now admitting what we have always said: Vote Liberal, get Labour."

Labour and the Liberal Democrats fear that if Labour wins the general election, bills on a wide range of constitutional measures, including Scottish and Welsh devolution, regional government

for England, a Bill of Rights, Freedom of Information and reform of the Lords, would be ambushed in the Commons and Lords. High on the agenda of the new cross-party body will be discussion of an overhaul of Commons procedures to smooth the passage of the bills.

Until this year there has been little co-operation between the two parties at UK level since the discredited Lib-

"This is not a pact. It's a practical step within a specific field of politics"

Lab pact of the 1970s. But last February there was co-operation between front benches on the Scott arms-to-Iraq report and this month between the two leaders over the Neil Hamilton/Ian Greer cash-for-questions affair. Both party conferences were accompanied by speculation that Lib Dems might be invited to join a Labour cabinet.

Mr Cook said yesterday: "This is not a pact. Nor is this the start of some grand new realignment of British politics. It's a very obvious practical step being taken by

two parties within a specific field of politics where we happen to have a lot of shared objectives, to work out how, in down-to-earth terms, we can best take forward these objectives in a new parliament."

Mr Cook and Mr MacLennan have had informal talks over the last few months. Mr Cook said that had moved up a gear with a formal meeting yesterday morning. Its importance was demonstrated by the seniority of the politicians involved. On the Labour side, apart from Mr Cook, were the Labour chief whip, Donald Dewar, the shadow leader of the House, Ann Taylor, and the shadow Scottish Secretary, George Robertson. On the Liberal Democrat side were the Scottish spokesman Jim Wallace, the campaigns co-ordinator Nick Harvey, and Lord McNally.

Mr MacLennan, who has experience as a junior minister in the Labour government of 1974-79 of the problems faced by the Scottish devolution bill, said: "Constitutional reform has in the past proved difficult to secure, even by governments with substantial majorities. Even with strong commitment, it is sensible to see if there is enough common ground to have a common approach."

Miners in health test case

Record compensation battle launched against British Coal

Seumas Milne Labour Editor

SIX former miners and two pitmen's widows yesterday launched a test case against British Coal for emphysema and bronchitis compensation in an action which could become the biggest health compensation claim ever to come to court.

The Government, owner of what has become a shell company since coal privatisation, faces a potential bill running into tens of millions of pounds if the claim is successful.

The claimants, backed by the pit deputies' union, Nacods, and the National Union

of Mineworkers, are taking legal action in a bid to compel British Coal to pay compensation for a wider group of dust-induced respiratory diseases.

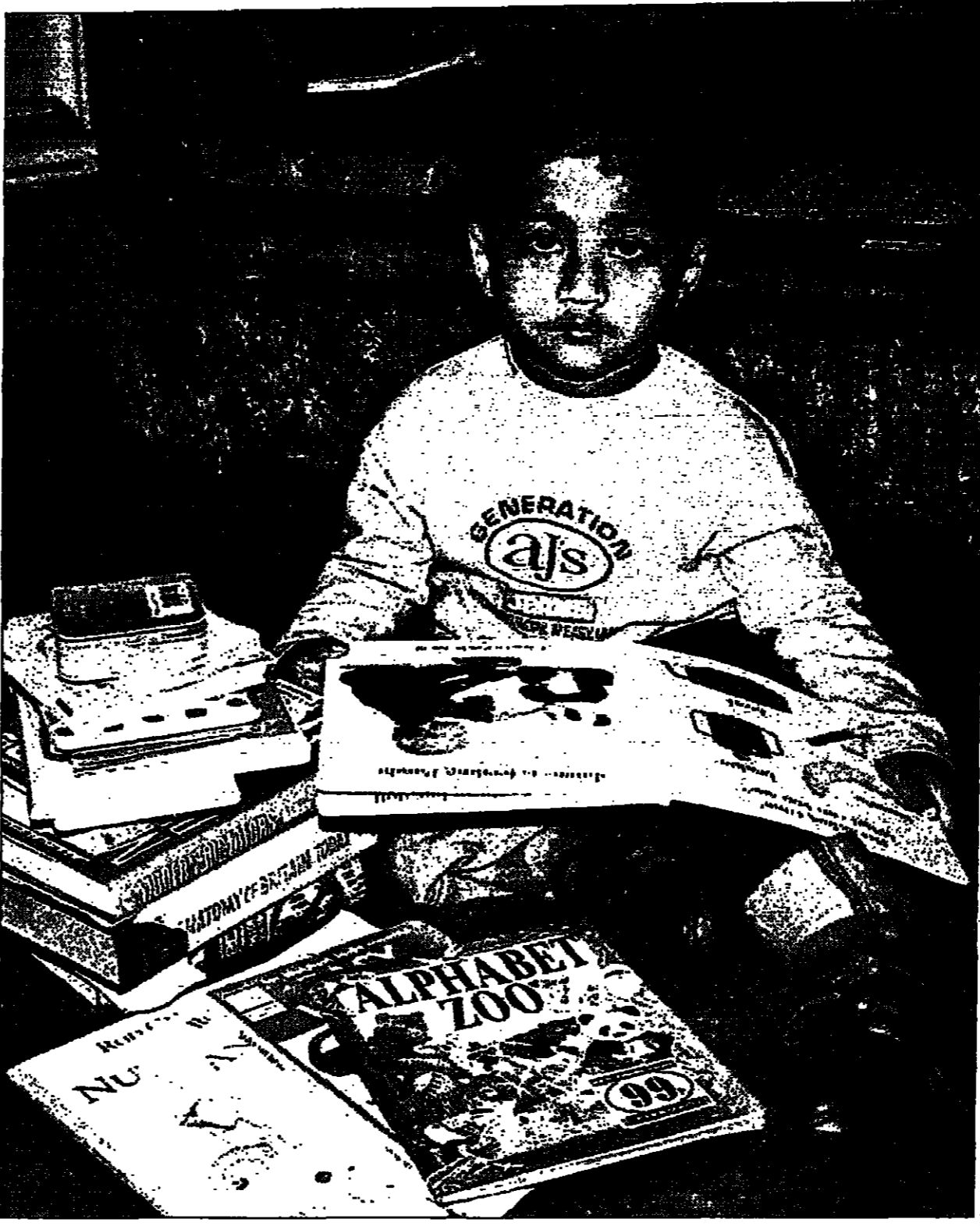
Mine owners are at present only obliged to compensate for pneumoconiosis. Up to 50,000 former miners suffering from emphysema and bronchitis stand to benefit if the High Court finds against British Coal.

Opening the hearing at Cardiff High Court yesterday, Stuart Brown QC, for the examiners and deputies, said the key question was whether the men had been exposed to excessive levels of dust and fumes, and if so, whether that had caused their chronic conditions.

Evidence would be presented that the increase in mechanisation underground since nationalisation in 1947 had led to sharply higher dust levels and dust sampling equipment was inaccurate, particularly in the early post-war years. "The defendants put productivity before dust suppression," Mr Brown said.

The case is expected to last until Easter next year, moving from Cardiff to Sheffield and then to London to hear evidence from ex-miners and technical and medical experts.

British Coal already faces potentially huge compensation bills after the NUM won a High Court victory in January over its failure to take action to deal with the industrial disease of Vibration White Finger — a condition caused by long-term use of vibrating machinery.



Boy wonder... Raheed Kahndaker memorises books and can say the alphabet in three languages. PHOTOGRAPH: DEREK COX

Boy, 2 set to join Mensa

Kennal Ahmed

A BOY of two is set to become the youngest member of Mensa after evidence that he can recite the alphabet in three languages, memorise whole books and name the make of every car he sees.

Mensa has advised the parents of Raheed Kahndaker, who has only been at nursery for eight weeks, to send him to an independent psychologist to test his IQ as he is too young to take the usual tests.

"He is an extraordinary little boy. He did walk and talk early, but we didn't think much of it," said his father, Tasha.

"But in the last few months he has started to remember everything he sees. He memorises the make and model of cars whenever we drive somewhere. If I read him a book he has memorised the whole thing in about three days. He can count and we are now teaching him to read."

Mr Kahndaker taught his son the alphabet in English, Arabic and Bengali. "He knows them all perfectly now," he said.

Other child geniuses include four-year-old Jessica Hardy, from Rotherham, who speaks English, French and Spanish. Charlotte Coleman, also aged four, from South Glamorgan, can speak German too.

"Children of this age cannot be tested in the usual way, but if an independent psychologist says Raheed has an IQ of more than 148 or is in the top one to two per cent of the population, we would accept him," said a Mensa spokeswoman.

Ex-UVF chief shot dead

David Sharrock Ireland Correspondent

A SENIOR loyalist paramilitary figure shot dead in Belfast yesterday had been "stood down" by his organisation less than a week ago, it was disclosed yesterday.

Thomas Stewart, 32, a married man with two children,

was ambushed by a number of armed and masked men near his home in Ballysillan, in the north of the city, at about 2 am.

It is understood that until last week he was the Ulster Volunteer Force commander for north Belfast. Another man, an associate of Mr Stewart, was also removed from his post at a "court of inquiry".

The inquiry followed a series of robberies, the latest of which netted £50,000 from Ballysillan post office. Police and loyalist sources yesterday said that Mr Stewart's murder had nothing to do with the UVF but might have been linked to "criminal elements".

If it was proved that the UVF was behind it, the breach of the loyalist ceasefire would result in the expulsion of the Progressive Unionist Party next month at the parties request.

links with the UVF, from multi-party talks at Stormont. The victim was walking down the street with another man when they were confronted by a number of gunmen. Mr Stewart was shot several times and died at the scene. Mr Stewart's companion was not injured.

A man and a woman were arrested at a house in the area within hours of the killing and were being questioned.

Mr Stewart was charged with membership of an illegal organisation during the Supergrass trials of the mid-1990s. The case against him collapsed when the evidence of William "Budgie" Allen was rejected.

Meanwhile, it was revealed yesterday that John Major is to meet representatives of the PUP and the Ulster Democratic Party next month at the parties request.

Mystery protein may be key to rheumatoid arthritis cure

Tim Radford Science Editor

SCIENTISTS believe they have found the cell machinery that might "switch off" rheumatoid arthritis and could lead to a new treatment for the condition afflicting 750,000 Britons.

The research, published in Nature Medicine today, focuses on what white blood cells — agents of the immune system — actually do.

Roderick Flower and colleagues at the Sir William Harvey Research Institute in London discovered a protein called lipocortin-1, and have for years been trying to unravel its purpose.

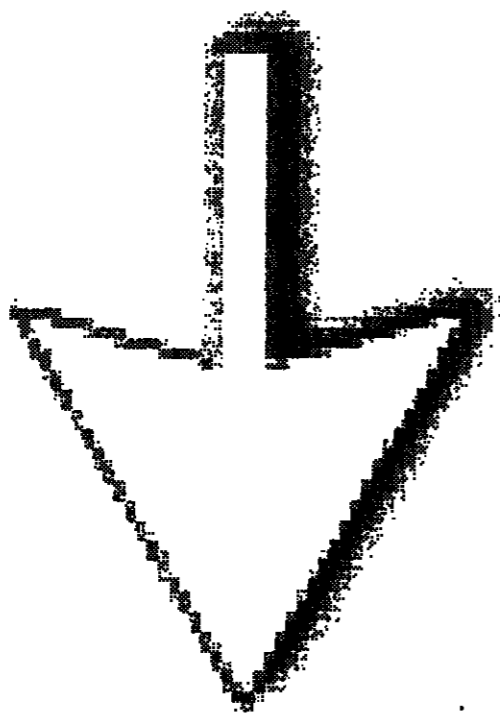
"We knew it had anti-inflammatory properties. We didn't quite understand how all the pieces fitted together," Prof Flower said. The white cells, or neutro-

phils, move into the inflamed area and stick to the walls of blood vessels. They then wait for a biological signal to proceed, by slipping through the blood vessel wall and into the damaged tissue. The neutrophils are agents in search of germs. Unless they get a "hold-fire" signal from lipocortin-1, they quite literally burst it the joint anyway.

Most research has focused on how rheumatoid arthritis was initiated — "relatively little focuses on what turns it off," Prof Flower said. "Even if this was a compound which could be used immediately it would take about eight years to get it to the market, so I don't want to hold out bogus hopes for people suffering chronic joint pain."

"But it is a very important mechanism which switches off not just arthritis but all sorts of inflammation and which can be exploited in the future."

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If you're a first time buyer TSB will give you £500 cashback on your mortgage.

Even better because TSB has taken 3.5% off an already low mortgage rate of 6.99% (APR 7.3%).

That means monthly payments of

just £104 on a £40,000 mortgage, as shown in the example below*

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*Typical example based on an endowment mortgage of £40,000 on a property valued at £80,000 repayable after 25 years (200 monthly payments) to finance a home purchase for a non-smoking couple (male aged 27 and female aged 25 years). Monthly interest payments are £103.25 for the first year at a variable rate of 6.49% which includes a discount of 0.5% on TSB's APR and TAP. Includes typical legal fees, £141. The customer will receive a £500 cash payment on completion. Example assumes TSB Property Plus, TSB Mortgage Plus, 12 month interest rate 1 year and 1 month respectively and a TSB HomeBuyer Policy have been taken and are not included in the £40,000. For mortgages over £15,000 there is a daily redemption charge equal to the grossed up discount given on any amount repaid in the first five years (the allowance given for MBS). Assignments/assignments of a suitable fee policy may be required by the bank as security. The value of units in a unit-linked endowment or pension plan can go down as well as up and the cash value of your plan is not guaranteed. TSB unit trusts and offshore investments. Advice on recommendations relate only to the investments of the TSB Marketing Group TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, London EC6A 3TA. Registered in England and Wales. Number: 1089266 TSB Bank Scotland plc, Herby Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JL. Registered in Scotland Number: 06222.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

The Guardian News in brief
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News in brief

Murder hunt begins over gun victim, 17

POLICE launched a murder inquiry yesterday when a teenager died in hospital after being shot through the throat in his car. Orville Bell, 17, had been on a life-support machine since the shooting in Lonsight, Manchester, last Wednesday, police said. His family gave permission for doctors at Manchester Royal Infirmary to end his life at midday.

'Too new' Freud painting lost

AN art gallery yesterday lost its fight to buy Lucian Freud's Portrait on a Grey Cover after being denied lottery cash on the grounds that the painting is too new. The deadline for the Abbot Hall gallery in Kendal, Cumbria, to raise sufficient funds had been extended twice by the New York dealer of Freud's work.

ChildLine decade aids 1/3m

MORE than 500,000 youngsters have been helped by ChildLine over the past decade, according to a report published yesterday which reveals that the charity has counselled 600,000 children and answered around 6 million calls since it was set up.

Harding funeral 'private'

THE funeral of Matthew Harding, the vice-chairman of Chelsea Football Club, will be a private service for close family and friends tomorrow, it was announced yesterday. The multi-millionaire was killed last week when the helicopter taking him and three friends back to London from a Chelsea game at Bolton, Lancashire, crashed.

Public keen on green levy

TWO out of three consumers think some or all of the subsidy for nuclear power should be switched to fund green energy rather than phased out simply to cut electricity bills, according to a Mori survey. One third think the entire levy — currently 10 per cent of the bill, but due to go in two years — should be switched to renewable energy like wind and wave power.

The Big Issue

IN an article on the Big Issue yesterday, it was wrongly stated that the magazine raises £14 million a week. Sales generate around £14 million a year. Half of that money goes directly to homeless people, the rest — less costs — supports Big Issue charities.



Roger Salmon: unfairly sacked for taking a trip to Pontins

Millionaire sacks employee for taking a holiday Lottery winner fires school chum

A BUSINESSMAN who took several luxury breaks after winning £11 million on the National Lottery sacked an employee he had known since junior school... for taking a week's family holiday. After winning the jackpot, Mark Gardiner celebrated with a £50,000 cruise on the QE2, and then took friends and family on a £100,000 trip to Barbados.



Mark Gardiner: Celebrated lottery win with holidays

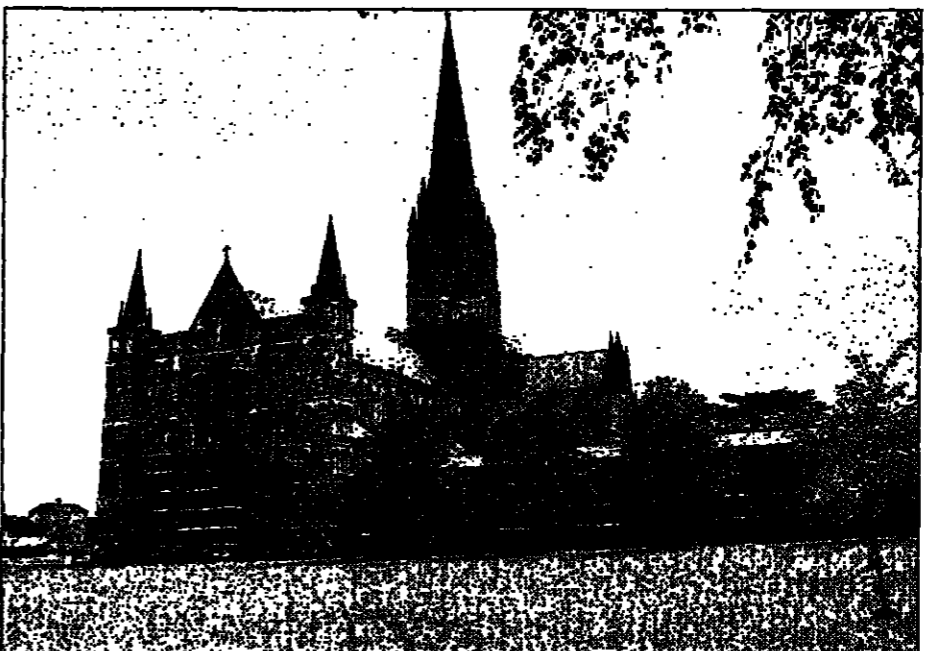
— who has not worked since he was sacked in June — said afterwards: "He always said I resigned, but I didn't. He sacked me and I have won that point." Mrs Salmon added: "When Mark won the money all he wanted to do was build up the business, and he bounded Roger day and night to go and work for him."

Cardinal in new attack on Blair

Cardinal Thomas Winning, the leader of the Scottish Catholic Church, yesterday refused to back down in his row with Tony Blair over Labour's abortion policy, urging Roman Catholics to examine their consciences before they vote in a general election.

Decision on £76m bypass delayed

CAMPAIGNERS against the £76 million bypass for the city of Salisbury, Wiltshire, yesterday won a reprieve against plans which they say will destroy a view of the cathedral from water meadows painted by Constable.



Reprieved for now... campaigners say the view of Salisbury Cathedral will be destroyed

Salisbury and the need to minimise the environmental impact of the proposed bypass. Sir George said that the view of Salisbury cathedral as painted by Constable would not be affected by the proposed road.

Bullying in the police 'increasing'

There has been a rise in bullying in the police service and an "unacceptable" level of racist and sexist banter, according to a report by the Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

Pop on the box tops BBC plan for eight pay TV channels

RADIO 1 is to be launched on television next year as one of eight subscription channels planned by the BBC. One-TV, likely to be modelled on the European satellite music station MTV, will feature Radio 1 presenters and live events, including the annual summer seaside roadshows.

Put GP funds 'on hold'

LABOUR should drop its threat to abolish fundholding by family doctors and instead propose to put the scheme on hold, an influential left-of-centre think tank says today. Successful fundholders should be "left alone" at least until more is known about the costs and benefits of the scheme, says the Institute for Public Policy Research.

Police call on criminals and 'dodgy' car dealers to help them in tracking down IRA

PROFESSIONAL criminals and "dodgy" car dealers could hold the key to thwarting IRA bombing operations on the mainland, it emerged yesterday. It is believed there are at least 10 IRA members in London preparing attacks.

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Vertical advertisement on the left edge of the page. It includes text such as "Boy, 2 set to join Mensa", "protein may be...", "ar...", "ments", "4...", "shback", "at.", and "58 000". It also features the TSB logo and "Virgin direct personal financial service" branding.

Advertisement for Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service. It includes the text "Get that pension sorted, call us today.", the Virgin Direct logo, and the phone number "0345 95 95 95".

World news in brief

UN urges action to avert Zaire exodus

THE United Nations refugee agency expressed concern yesterday about 600,000 Rwandan and Burundian Hutus out of from foreign aid in eastern Zaire, and fears that reported fighting near huge camps on Rwanda's borders could set off a new refugee exodus.

13 die as ceasefire breaks

GUNMEN killed 13 people and critically wounded 17 others in a drive-by attack yesterday at a crowded junction in south Mogadishu, witnesses said. They said five men in a pick-up truck fired machine guns and threw grenades.

Leader held for Pinochet slur

CHILE'S Communist party leader, Gladys Marin, was arrested yesterday on charges of defaming former dictator General Augusto Pinochet.

Bishop denies Kohl invitation

THE 1996 Nobel peace laureate and Roman Catholic bishop of East Timor, Carlos Belo, yesterday denied receiving an invitation to meet Helmut Kohl during the German chancellor's two-day visit to Indonesia earlier this week.

Priests 'older and fewer'

VATICAN officials yesterday painted a grim picture of the state of the Catholic priesthood in Europe, saying that fewer and older priests are working in a "strongly hedonistic" culture that makes it tough to attract young people to the clergy.

Judge hurt in Cypriot blast



JUDGE Michalis Mavronicholas arrives in a serious condition at hospital in Nicosia, Cyprus, after a bomb exploded outside his Limassol home yesterday.

Stallion back on target

A CHAMPION stallion in New Zealand has been put on an experimental fertility programme previously used on humans after failing to match his racecourse success on the stud farm.

Pageant protesters play dirty

INDIAN police arrested 16 women who stormed a Bangalore showroom yesterday and smeared goods made by a Miss World sponsor with cow dung and coal tar to protest at next month's pageant, which they say demeans women.

Hands across the sea



The JVC factory worker (left) now assembling TV sets in East Kilbride may soon be doing the work of her French counterpart, making hi-fi sets



PHOTOGRAPHS: MURDO MACLEOD, REA

'Lottery' losers mourn jobs

Alex Duval Smith in Villers-la-Montagne

FRENCH factory workers who are losing their jobs on a hi-fi assembly line, because their Japanese employer is concentrating production in Scotland, will tell a government minister today that they have been the victims of a European Union subsidies lottery.

no future. Employers' costs may be low in Britain but still they cannot compete with Malaysia.

Miss Banny and her colleagues — some of them supporting their husbands and many of them single mothers — are far from resigned to their fate. Last week, they and some of us re-employed.

sign investments and takeovers — seen as being agreed with few job guarantees.

Trade union activism is very limited in France's private sector — only 40 of JVC's 243 staff at Villers-la-Montagne are union members.

'When they finish in Scotland they'll return to the Far East, having spent 10 years benefitting from subsidies and securing a foothold in the European market'

held hostage five of the company's directors for a day.

Before JVC's eight-year tenure of the factory, it was owned for two years by Thomson electronics, which employed 100 people.

Paris last winter, small private sector companies are increasingly the scene of strife.

"This area used to be known as Black Texas, because of the coal and iron ore. Now all that industry has gone and we are seeing that the painful, partial recovery we made was for nothing."

Reasons for relocating

- Scotland's strong cards
Manufacturing productivity annual growth rate of 5.2 per cent
Less onerous restrictions on labour — UK workers put in an average 41 hours a week against EU average of 39
Days lost to industrial disputes in the UK were 24 per cent higher than the UK as benefits in France are more extensive
Success of other inward investors attracts more companies. Inward investment in Scotland announced this year is more than £2.7 billion.

- France's drawbacks
Manufacturing productivity annual growth rate of 2.7 per cent
Higher cost of labour: up to 25 per cent more than the UK
Days lost to industrial disputes: 37 per 1,000 workers
Total remuneration costs 37 per cent higher than the UK as benefits in France are more extensive
Wages councils under Social Chapter can set pay
Output per hour in manufacturing about 80 per cent of UK level.

Russian power play made public

David Hearst in Moscow says the push to promote the prime minister has begun

THE Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, is being presented as a safe, healthy and reliable acting head of state as the countdown begins to President Boris Yeltsin's heart operation.

him as an immensely wealthy bureaucrat, who placed his sons in important Gazprom posts and built himself a large dacha outside Moscow.

But Mr Chernomyrdin is emerging from the power struggle at the Kremlin as one of the most legitimate successors to Mr Yeltsin. Under the constitution, he will take over as head of state while the president is incapacitated.

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Louisa Young on having children and a social life
G2 page 12

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Confident of election victory, the White House cast is jockeying for position



Hillary Clinton: likely to play traditional first lady



Richard Holbrooke: 'too cocky' for state department



Madeleine Albright: tipped to succeed Christopher



Strobe Talbott: likely to get national security role



Mickey Kantor: attorney-general's post beckons



John Deutch: hopes to be handed the defence job



Robert Rubin: likely to remain at the treasury



George Mitchell: safe choice for state department

Clinton's rising stars eye top roles



Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE guessing game has begun. Not a single vote has been cast, but already the Washington gossipers are making bets on who will be the stars of Clinton II — the key players of a second Clinton administration. Despite the president's warnings against over-confi-

dence, his aides are privately presuming victory and pondering their next moves. Attention is focusing on two or three glamour jobs and the future role of the team's most controversial member: Hillary Clinton. Leading Republicans have warned that a re-elected President Clinton would take his wife out of the shadows where she has lurked since her 1994 failure to overhaul healthcare — and give her a high-profile policy-making role. But White House advisers say that is unlikely, and that Mrs Clinton will maintain her current status of traditional first lady.

"They learned the pitfalls during the first two years," said one administration official yesterday. "Even the president has admitted it was very risky to appoint his wife to the healthcare job, and he has resolved not to repeat his mistake." Critics who predict an enlarged role for Mrs Clinton see it as part of an inevitable leftward shift by the president once he is liberated from the pressures of re-election. Aides disagree. "The way things have been going for the last couple of years is how it will be in the next four," one source said, noting that Mrs Clinton no

longer ran nor even attended strategy meetings at the White House. Elsewhere, however, there will be movement. George Stephanopoulos, the boy-wonder adviser who achieved political stardom in the 1992 campaign, has said he hopes to move on after five years at Bill Clinton's side, fearing burn-out. Rumour has him taking a job in Hollywood's entertainment industry, or playing gamekeeper-turned-poacher and signing on as a correspondent for CBS News. The White House chief of staff, Leon Panetta, is also planning to head west soon after inauguration day in Jan-

uary, perhaps to seek the governorship of California in 1998. The front runner to succeed him is his deputy, Harold Ickes, a veteran political operative. Promotion would be a reward for his stewardship of the 1996 campaign. But President Clinton may balk at the last minute — elevating a New York liberal like Mr Ickes could send the wrong signal at the start of a new term. The third California-bound Clintonite has the most sought-after job of all. The colourless but dogged Warren Christopher is tired after four frustrating years as secretary

of state, having failed to crown his tenure with a comprehensive Middle East peace deal. He is ready to return to Los Angeles. The favourite to replace him is the ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright. Mr Clinton would dearly love to appoint the first female secretary of state, and Ms Albright is an accomplished television performer. But some say she is not smart enough for the job — her nickname is Half-Bright. Other contenders include former senator George Mitchell, chairman of the Northern Ireland peace talks and widely seen as the safe option.

Former assistant secretary of state, Richard Holbrooke, won plaudits for brokering peace in Bosnia but is seen as too egotistical to defer to Mr Clinton. His consolation might be the UN ambassadorship. Strobe Talbott, Mr Christopher's deputy, would be considered only if the Democrats retake the senate, otherwise he would be a lame duck nomination. Instead he is likely to become national security adviser, replacing the lacklustre Anthony Lake. William Perry is anxious to move on from the Pentagon, where the CIA director, John Deutch, is equally keen to

succeed him. Robert Rubin will probably stay at the treasury, while Henry Cisneros and Hazel O'Leary have both been tainted with too much scandal to remain at housing and energy respectively. Janet Reno likes being attorney-general, but has Parkinson's disease and is likely to be pushed aside to make way for the commerce secretary, Mickey Kantor. For the record, Bob Dole has hinted at those who would serve in his administration, including retired general Colin Powell and former secretary of state James Baker, but few people are paying much attention.

Parties trade dirty money claims

The funding of both campaigns is proving embarrassing, writes Martin Walker

THE Republican National Committee yesterday filed a lawsuit against their Democratic counterparts, as a new report suggested that the Republicans were benefiting from the international arms trade. The Republicans were outraged when the Democratic National Committee said it would not comply with the Federal Election Commission rule that says it should list all donations received over the last filing period, October 1-15. Insisting that "no money was spent directly on behalf of President Clinton or other candidates in that time", the DNC said it was therefore under no legal requirement to publish. This quibble is unlikely to stand up in court, but it could have bought enough time to delay publication of the data

until after election day next Tuesday. The Republicans want the data to prove their contention that the Clinton campaign "is bought and sold and paid for by secretive, mysterious and even plain illegal Asian money". But Republicans have their own campaign finance embarrassments. US-based arms exporters have become one of the most generous sectors of US industry in their political contributions, more than two-thirds of their total donations of \$6.5 million (\$9.75 million) going to Republicans. The arms exporters got their money back many times over, as US government export subsidies for arms sales rose from \$7 billion in 1994 to \$7.6 billion in 1995, claims a detailed research report to be published today by the World

Policy Institute in New York. The US exported \$15 billion in arms sales in 1995, of which more than half were paid for by US grants, loans and subsidies. By far the biggest payer for US arms exports is the taxpayer, rather than Saudi Arabia or Taiwan, which, the report says, makes a friendly Congress essential to the industry. There were three main individual beneficiaries of the political contributions. The Republican Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, received more than \$51,000 from the arms industry. The Lockheed-Martin corporation which is based in his constituency had to take back \$2,200 when they gave him more than the legal limit. "The Speaker lauds Lockheed-Martin as a model of sound management in his

controversial television lecture series *Renewing American Civilisation*, which was started with a \$10,000 contribution from Lockheed back in 1991," says William Hartung, an expert on the global arms trade, who wrote the report. The second beneficiary was Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who led the fight to beat off a bipartisan attempt to impose a code of conduct on arms exporters that would make it difficult to sell arms to dictatorships or to countries with a poor human rights record. Senator McConnell was successful. His campaign funds benefited to the tune of \$65,000. The third beneficiary was Congresswoman Jane Harmon, a California Democrat, who led the fight in the House to preserve the government-guaranteed loan fund to finance foreign arms sales that was finally authorised at \$15 billion. She received \$7,250 in campaign donations from the industry.



Bob Dole speaks at a rally in California, as a report suggests the Republicans are benefiting from arms sales

'Crib-sheet king' faces legal test over time-zone cheating scam

Ian Katz in New York

IN advertisements for his American Test Centre, George Kobayashi boasted of a "unique method" of preparing students for the standardised tests to gain a place on graduate degree courses. The Los Angeles-based businessman guaranteed that his students would achieve the test results they required. But Mr Kobayashi's technique was not based on expert tuition. Instead, he allegedly operated an elaborate cheating scheme involving expert test-takers and coded pencils and exploiting the three-hour time difference between the east and west coasts of the United States. Now Mr Kobayashi, aged 45, faces up to five years in prison and \$250,000 (£160,000) in fines if he is convicted on fraud charges. Students paid Mr Kobay-

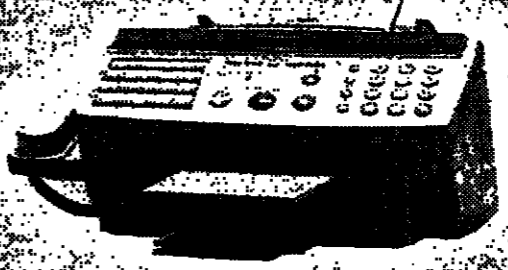
ashi \$6,000 and travelled to Los Angeles to take the admission exam while expert examinees working for him took the test in New York under assumed names. They relayed the answers to the multiple choice questions to Los Angeles, where his staff engraved them in code on coloured pencils which were then supplied to his students. Clients also received advance notice of essay subjects in the exam. Mr Kobayashi was rumoured when an undercover postal inspector enrolled in his scheme this month. He was told to ring a telephone number during a break in his exam and instructed to collect his coded pencils. Authorities believe hundreds of students used Mr Kobayashi's system to secure places on graduate courses. The Educational Testing Service, the New Jersey company which administers the tests, says it will invalidate their tests.

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We can raise standards
Prevention is a far better policy than exclusion

THE ELECTION auction moved from the courthouse to the classroom yesterday - with equally dire results. The Secondary Heads Association was right to condemn both major parties for their readiness to indulge in "political leapfrogging" over school discipline. Which is worse: corporal punishment or compulsory school contracts? Yesterday dawned with the Education Secretary raising the prospect on the BBC Today programme of a return to caning in state schools. The normally rational Gillian Shephard confessed she had never been opposed to corporal punishment and still regarded it as "a very useful deterrent". Within two hours, she had been slapped down by the Prime Minister who made it clear that a practice which was banned in prisons and the military services decades ago was certainly not being reintroduced against children. Then Mrs Shephard's shadow, David Blunkett, who has been equally rational about raising standards and improving discipline, went over the top with the suggestion that home-school contracts should be made compulsory for seven million pupils in 25,000 schools. Roll on election day and a calmer-period of policy-making.

alone cannot be expected to restore the disintegrated life which an increasing number of urban communities are suffering or solve the serious emotional problems of a growing number of disruptive children. The causes - and solutions - lie far wider than the education system, as the feature on the decline in civic responsibility in our Society section documents today. Indeed, a recent Gallup poll showed this was widely understood by the public with 83 per cent believing moral values and behaviour were learned in the home compared to just 13 per cent who thought it was at school. Even so, schools can still make a significant difference. Every pupil supposedly spends 15,000 hours in class. Just as there are unacceptably wide gaps in educational achievement between schools with similar catchment areas, so too there are insupportably deep differences in managerial competence. The two issues should not be separated: Michael Rutter demonstrated a decade ago that good management (punctuality, coherent goals, well-defined discipline) can and does raise standards. Something was seriously wrong with the management of the Riding School. Teachers who want to exclude 60 pupils have lost control and need to examine their own professionalism. The long-running Manton dispute is different. No one should be surprised that local parents have aligned themselves with teachers: they have a shared interest in ensuring one disruptive pupil does not interrupt the education of other pupils. Labour has been right to push home-school contracts. Prevention is far better than exclusion. But such contracts are unnecessary for the vast majority of parents. Far better to concentrate on specific contracts for difficult children than waste hours drawing up bland generalised contracts for the multitude.

Israel's moment in history

If Mr Netanyahu seizes it, he may become a great leader

THERE IS HEBRON, and there is beyond Hebron. At the moment the Israeli-Palestinian talks are bogged down on the first item dividing them, let alone the other issues still ahead. Israel claims that it is not seeking to alter the agreement already reached (but not implemented) on withdrawal from the last of the seven West Bank cities handed over to Palestinian self-rule. It is only seeking to "change the modalities." These include taking away the existing right of Palestinian police to carry agreed weapons in Hebron, and giving Israeli soldiers a new right of hot pursuit into the city. Nor has Israel yet agreed to reopen the main thoroughfare, Shuhada or Martyrs' Street, from which the indigenous population has been banned for the past two years.

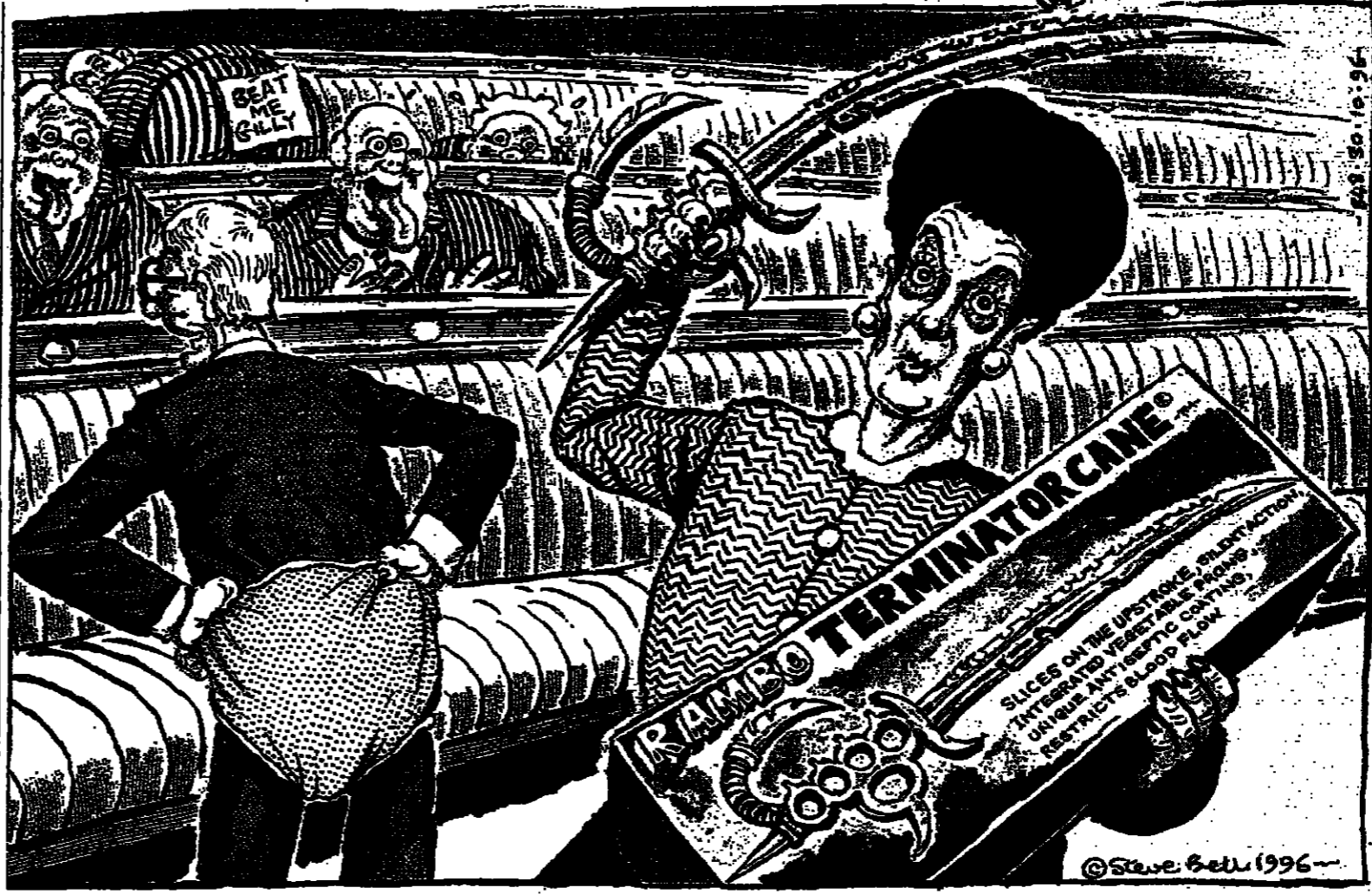
Yasser Arafat chose yesterday to take a break, proceeding on his scheduled European tour. Binyamin Netanyahu claims that this is Palestinian "foot-dragging" - a rich claim from the Likud leader who has held up the peace process since he was elected. No doubt Mr Arafat is hoping to gain by the delay, and the Palestinians are encouraged by the revival of European interest in their problems, and are seeking to mobilise all the international support which they can win. But sooner rather than later, the signs are that they are going to settle on Hebron. What will come after Hebron? The Palestinians assert that they occupy the moral high ground, but right now Israel clearly has the muscle and the weight. The question is whether Mr Netanyahu can see beyond his immediate advantage to the abyss which will open up in the longer term. In an understated way, he is still being given the benefit of the doubt by Mr Arafat and his ministers. They realise that he won hardline support for his coalition by injudiciously promising to reverse what had been agreed. They hope he is beginning to realise just how dangerously this could end. The streets are quiet again in spite of the recent clashes: there have been no terrorist bombs since the election. Many other Palestinians are less forgiving. If Mr Netanyahu can be persuaded to realise it, he has a window of opportunity to become not just a smart leader but a great one. It will not be open for very long.

Cooking up a new constitution

It's good to talk about reform, but talk about the monarchy too

INTER-PARTY cooperation on reform is good politics and right in principle. The more forthright that goes into the planning of complex and inter-related constitutional reforms the better. So yesterday's announcement that recent private constitutional talks between Labour and the Liberal Democrats are now to go public is welcome on both counts. The idea that Labour can drift into office with sketchy reform ideas on which they have not consulted anyone is a non-starter. Robin Cook and Robert MacLennan are engaging in vital work which deserves full support. Contrast that systematic approach to the constitutional agenda with the trivial one of Lord Archer and his friends. Having previously denounced Labour for trying to reform the constitution, Lord Archer has now come up with a reform bill to abolish male primogeniture from the law of royal succession, a plan which also has extensive implica-

tions for the whole hereditary peerage system. Lord Archer's bill is a useful reminder that the future of the monarchy is a matter for Parliament (which could, if it so wished, unseat the Windsors and replace them with the Archers). But of all the constitutional issues needing reform, royal male primogeniture is pretty low down the list. At least Lord Archer is proving that constitutional reform is not a no-go area for Conservatives: it has been a long time since any leading Tory admitted that. And at least he is implicitly recognising that the monarchy is a legitimate area of public debate. Sadly, Labour still refuses to accept this obvious truth and one of its spokespersons, Doug Henderson MP, even produced the immortal idiom yesterday that "The Labour Party believes in a strong monarchy". Come back Charles I, all is forgiven? Let's hope Messrs Cook and MacLennan can do better than that.



Letters to the Editor

It's a Cardinal error

LINDA Grant has missed the point (Please keep God out of the ballot box, October 28). Christian Socialism has never sought to "saturate public life with its God-authorised prohibitions". For many of us the Christian faith is too important to be left to the Tories or the strictures of the religious right - and politics is too vital to be left to those who say that the economy, employment and the market are all moral-free zones. We do not want Britain to be a theocracy, nor should there be a Christian Party and we abhor the attempt to enlist God within a party or to make the election hinge on one issue. We live in a multi-cultural and multi-faith world and our future must lie in discovering a moral purpose that embraces the wisdom of Islam, of Judaism and of humanism as well as Christianity; but we cannot pretend that legislation is ever morally neutral. Chris Bryant, Chair, Christian Socialist Movement, 36 Old Queen Street, London SW1R 9JF.

view on abortion. He has supported the present law because he recognises that in the agonising circumstances many women face, their decisions should not be made subject to the criminal law. This is the position he has taken since he wrote in 1988: "Any sensible person is against abortion. The real question is whether the law should make criminal those who face the acute moral and personal dilemma of carrying an unwanted child and decide to abort; to force where we have failed to persuade. When we reject this proposition we do not in any sense deny the rights of the fetus or affirm a belief in abortion. We merely reject the law as the best instrument to resolve the conflicts between the rights of the fetus or child and those of the woman." Mr Blair is also committed to maintaining abortion as a matter of conscience for MPs. Janet Anderson MP, Shadow Minister for Women, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

to urge the Roman Catholic Church to have a full and informed debate (without interference from the Vatican) on contraception, abortion, divorce, celibacy, homosexuality and the ordination of women? (Rev) Peter Colwell, 43 Kross Road, London N5 2QN. A FEW years ago a nun was raped; the Catholic church, on the orders of the Pope, allowed her to have an abortion. I don't recall the head of the Catholic church in Scotland condemning the humane decision on that occasion. William Benton, 128 Alcroft Road, Hall Green, Birmingham 11. AM I alone in suspecting a not very subtle diversionary ploy in Cardinal Winning's insistence that Mr Blair declare his position on abortion? In the wake of wayward Scottish bishops, the Catholic church would do well to keep a more humble profile and stick to the principle II fuit saltem nostre Jarden. S R Gibson, Osborne House, Walmer Deal, Kent CT14 7PE.

The right to be married, single or separated - free of judgment

I AM at a loss to understand why Tariq Ali's partner would have to give up "her rights" if she married (Better than wed, October 29). I have been happily married for many years and have not given up "my rights" to anything. One almost feels apologetic to be a wife instead of a partner these days. Marriage is portrayed to be claustrophobic, old-fashioned and certain doom to any loving relationship. If that is the case, why are homosexuals so anxious to claim it for themselves? I am a feminist, have my "own space", my own bank account, my own friends, my own interests and make my own decisions. But then most married women do. Joyce Hansaman, Bakers Lane, Sale M33. I WAS born illegitimate in the chaos of the second world war and brought up in a small west of England town. Throughout my childhood and adolescence my mother and I were constantly reminded of our inferior status. Apart from the one "lapse" she led a blameless life and worked hard to bring me up correctly. I would not wish any child to

grow up in the poisonous moral climate I endured and which the Tory Party in its current fit of righteousness seems determined to recreate. Richard Green, Main Street, Amboston, Derby DE72. PART of our eight-year-old daughter Judith's contribution to her school was to help draft and develop her school's behaviour policy. Her two contributions were that pupils, teachers, and parents should always apologise when wrong and should find out the facts before billing someone off. These two moral prescriptions would seem to us to sit comfortably within any child's growing moral awareness. As Judith is also the child of separated, never-married parents we're left wondering what kind of caning family ideology she is expected to use to arrive at these perspectives rather than "the usual mish-mash of soft-centred waffle" she has used to date? John Offord, Tredegar Road, London SE22, Ann Pickering, Larkbore Road, London SE22.

Sperm counts

FURTHER to my suggestion that males who are overly keen on football may well be lacking in the horizontal shooting and scoring department (The Week, October 19), I see that Italian - of all the football-crazed nations - doctors have concluded after a four-year study that a third of adolescent boys who play football frequently (more than 10 hours a week) will face fertility problems as adults. Apparently, soccer practice (as opposed to theory, the middle class groups of the allegedly beautiful game need not lose sleep) aids and abets the development of a "varicose" - "a varicose vein around the sperm-carrying cord." In a letter to the Lancet, who else should be pointed out that boys between 10 and 14 who indulged in nothing

more than the minimum required physical jerks were 100 per cent clear of this vilisounding affliction. If a woman smokes or drinks, she is considered to be bad breeding stock; in the US, she can be imprisoned for continuing these pursuits while pregnant. As men are eager these days to stake their claim as equally important parents, should we not frown on those who deform their seed by obsessively kicking a coarse sphere around a muddy field? Or if they do want to either be with men or look at men every hour of their waking leisure time - should they not be encouraged to come clean and admit to their basic homosexuality? In which case pre-emptive surgery would be a marginal issue anyway. Julie Birchill, Sussex Arts Club, Brighton, Sussex. LIKING FOOTBALL COULD JUST BE A PHASE HE'S GOING THROUGH. CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST.

Uprooting the forest demons

MARTIN Kettle (The enemy in the forest, October 25) wrongly relates the rise of deforestation directly to the elimination of trees. Landscape study over the past 20 years has demolished the myth of trees covering the British landscape until the industrial revolution. People have always used trees. Persistent dominant "forests" did not "ensure our collective poverty", rather, the effective management of woodland created and maintained wealth. The justification for allotting landscape areas to woodland is different today. Needs have changed. Economically, woodlands are now important mainly for timber and for recreation. Now, and in the future, a sustainable, renewable supply of native timber remains important to our self-reliance. Environmentalists are often uninformed about the nature of trees. Keeping our woodland has always involved cutting mature trees for timber and allowing new ones to grow. They also paint inaccurately their view of woodland history. However, reacting by painting a dark demonised view of woodland and trees, "a

struggle between us and them", is based on similarly mythical premises. Paul Price, Woodwrights Timber Framing, Anne's Cottages, Wimborne St Giles, Dorset BH21 8NG. THE backdrop privatisation of our woodlands continues despite Mr Major's election promise "not to privatise the Forestry Commission" and Mr Blair's Commons statement that "the FC woodlands should remain in the public sector." Some 4,000 public woodlands (66 per cent of the total) have been sold, only 48 with official public access agreements. Freedom to roam is invariably lost. The Government must be shamed into stopping this harmful sell-off. Philip Gale, Bridge Farm, Hannington Wick, Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 7EX. Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters; short ones are more likely to appear.

Bar none

IT MAY come as a surprise to Anthony Julius (The butt steps here, October 26) but even lawyers have a patron saint to plead their cause in heaven. He is Saint Yvo of Brittany (1258-1293), a lawyer who, like shopkeepers and the poor without charge. The indigent were also amazed, saying of him: "Advocatus et non latro, res miranda populo (a lawyer and not a thief, a marvel to the people). Blake Swann, Cynus House, High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex. SO the Alliance and Leicestershire bribe a borrower for the permission to convert (Alliance offers flat-rate £1,000 flat windfall, October 28) but totally ignore the long-term loyal customer of Girobank, which it obtained at a knock-down price in the Government "a rescue plan" and from which it takes large profits with which to subsidise those bribes. Kenneth Brewer, 19 Hillary Crescent, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 2DE. COLONIALISTS carved up Africa into nation states, regardless of tribal loyalties. Surely the cure for this wretched continent is for rich former colonial countries to sit down with the leaders of Africa and redraw the map? Daphne Corder, 51 Nassington Road, London NW3 2TY.

The point of knife laws

THE Government says it can't ban combat knives because it can't provide an adequate definition of what a combat knife is (When the knives are out, October 29). Why can't manufacturers of combat knives have legitimate uses, such as kitchen or medical knives, for approval? Knives which are not submitted or not approved would be banned. This would allow police to confiscate them, charge those caught in possession of them and those found selling them. P Bray, 45 Bluebell Meadow, Widders, Berks RG41 5UW. WHEN I was about 13 I had a knife with a blade very similar to the one you pic-

tured. It was a gift from a relative. Its purpose was to gut and scale fish. It even came in a wooden sheath that doubled as a ruler for measuring my catches. Would this be banned under Jack Straw's proposals? Isn't the point about knives the intent with which they are carried? Jaim Forsyth, 60 Tring Avenue, London W5 3QB. ALL that is needed is a requirement that all knives over a certain blade length be licensed. Unlicensed knives will be illegal; licensed knives will bear a special mark on the blade. John Harris, 7 Springdale Gardens, Didbury, Manchester M20 6QY.

A Country Diary

ILKLEY to WINDERMERE: Up Oughtershaw Beck, towards Cam Houses, the high moorlands are ginger and beige, cotton grass and fading poplins. Puddles and water in ruts and hoof prints reflect patches of blue sky and ahead is the stepped dome of Ingleborough, catching rain amongst curtains and shafts of cloud and sunlight. Across the watershed from the Roman Cam High Road, a huge vista includes Pen y Ghent and Wharfedale with Ribbleshead Viaduct silhouetted against the afternoon's watery sun. From Ilkley we walked up the Wharfe valley through meadows, past Bolton Abbey, along the Strid's chasm where water was unusually quiet, beside leas and weirs with converted mills to Burnsall's popular field above a beach of white pebbles. North from Grassington we crossed ancient settlements and field systems where limestone walls blend with natural crags, scars and pikes in folded, pale-tinted hills. At Kettlewell we admired the dense network of

stockproof drystone walls, enclosing bright green grass and distinctive isolated barns, some filled with hay and straw, a few ruined around invading trees. The Wharfe was low but, after a rainy night at Buckden, it livened up, brown peaty water rushing over sills in narrowing Langstrothdale where hazel, holly, alder and yellowing birch edge the fields and garbled ash trees cling to gorges below these exposed Pennine uplands. Later we followed the Craven Way, winding between tufts, clints and hags above Blaesmoor, buffeted by rainy wind and pursued by lowering black clouds on the descent to sheltered Dentdale. There low sun slants across small fields, shiny wet trees drip light and rainbows arch over Sedburgh and the luminous Howgill Fells. At Crook of Lume we leave the swirling river, daunted and subdued as we near the roaring M6, crossing over it on a cow creep. Two days westwards the Lakeland summits are suffused with clouds. VIRGINIA SPIERS

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Diary
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Diary
Matthew Norman

WITH the proceeds of his Prince Charles book, Jonathan Dimbleby and his misbegotten Bal Mooney have bought themselves a large house in Forkington, east Sussex, just below the Long Man of Wilmington. After the drama of Bel's involvement with the Newbury bypass protest, where better than the sleepy, picturesque village of Forkington to find a little peace? But would you believe it, the one detail of which Ms Mooney seems unaware is the local campaign to stop the widening of a 12-mile stretch of the nearby A27, on which the Transport Department plans to build a 6-lane dual carriageway. Although the largest of its kind in Sussex, the A27 action group has an altogether different class of protester to Newbury, boasting among its 1,500 members Sir Dirk Bogarde, Harold Pinter, Susannah York, and six peers of the realm including Lord Healey. Whether Ms Mooney, with her Newbury background, would be considered too uncouth is uncertain. "I don't think she's a figure of fun," says one campaigner. "She'd be most welcome to join us. Do tell her to get in touch."

I AM enchanted by the phraseology used by the Sun, in its exclusive interview with a woman who claims that her lover Geoffrey Boycott beat her up. "Margaret, 44, made her allegations," reports the paper. "During a meeting at a London hotel with publicist Max Clifford." Ah, I see, so she was having her meeting with Max, about who knows what, when by a tremendous slice of luck the allegations popped out just as the moment the Sun reporter happened to be passing. Such insouciance.

IN the Racing Post, I am delighted to read that the jockey Walter Swinburn, three times a Derby winner, has completed his comeback after the very serious injury he sustained in Hong Kong. According to Graham Green's page-three report, Mr Swinburn "made a fairytale comeback" with a "brilliant Breeder's Cup Turf triumph" in America on Sunday; furthermore, he "achieved his goal when he fully restored his reputation as a world-class jockey". Marvellous: Mr Swinburn won't ride again this year in Britain, writes Mr Green, but "will ride abroad if he is required for big races". Well, well. Graham Green is really congratulated on so pithy and readable a report. How he finds the time when he is so busy with his other job — he is Walter Swinburn's agent — I will never know.

COULD it be that, in her dotage, the Baroness Thatcher has become a republican? Associated Press reports that last week, Lady Thatcher astounded charity event organisers in Spartanburg, South Carolina, by requesting for her arrival not God Save the Queen, but America The Beautiful. Lady Thatcher once said scornfully that the monarch was the kind of woman who would vote SDP, but this is hardly an excuse for such behaviour. Treachery is a very strong word indeed, so we'd better not use it. But we are sorely tempted.

MEANWHILE, no "we are a grandfather" nonsense from Lady T's old opponent. Neil Kinnock is keeping a very low profile about his new-born first grandchild. For those who missed the discreet notice in yesterday's Guardian about this "marvellous new Labour gain", her name is Margaret Elida... just a little joke; she is Johanna Elida; both... and she is the first Kinnock in 1,000 generations to be born in Brussels, where Neil and Glensy's son Stephen also lives with his Danish wife.

THE Fortean Times reports a miraculous escape in Regensdorf, Switzerland. A freak gust of wind carried Aimé Grosjean from his 17th-floor balcony and hurled him into the air. But just as his future looked bleak, another gust delivered him safely on to the balcony of the 16th floor. That flat's owners were out, and Mr Grosjean walked away with cuts and bruises on his arm.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?



Fashionable feast for fat ladies

Commentary Catherine Bennett

AFTER years of merciless body fascism, Condé Nast, the company that publishes Vogue, has had a change of heart. It has hearkened to the pleas — the breathless, wheezy pleas — of the obese: the chubby and the tubby, the podgy and the frankly pot bellied. This week it launches Encore, "an exclusive magazine created especially for you" — those of you, that is, who are size 16 to 32, with waists over 32 inches — a measurement recently designated a health risk. Vogue House has taken up the cudgel until now wielded almost exclusively by the massive paw of Dawn French.

As obesity is now considered by the World Health Organisation to be a disease of epidemic proportions, the arrival of a magazine aimed at flattering its sufferers is no less an event than would be the publication of glossy new magazines called, say, Snout, or Rat-Arsed, aimed at glorifying smoking and alcohol-

ism. Yet Encore (Come Again? More Please? Seconds for Anybody?) the magazine for women with a serious health problem, is being introduced as a sort of victory for good sense, which will help cultivate the self-esteem of "the fuller figured teenage girl, bombarded with images of skinnier models".

Acute skinniness is dangerous, occasionally fatal, but the eating disorder of obesity affects many more people — around six million adults in this country. Moreover, all those tyrannical images seem to have had little obvious effect on the nation's weight. Obesity doubled in the last decade. Many schoolchildren now resemble the Hon Nicholas Soames. Few new army recruits can manage more than a shambling trot.

Yet, in Encore, obesity is to be cherished. Even when it gets in the way, or makes you feel unhappy. "Show your cleavage and no one will see your double chin", suggests the wily Monica Zipper, Encore's size-20 fashion tipster.

Before long, however, such diversionary ruses may become unnecessary. While the Health Secretary has not given up on obesity, it seems that attitudes are, at last, softening towards selected porters. On television, for instance, the awesome expanses of Piz, the Cracker, have recently been eclipsed by the combined acreage of

the Two Fat Ladies, Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson-Wright, who, if anything, play down their cleavages the better to show off their mighty chins and gigantic bellies. The approval showered on this short-breathed double-act by female critics shows how far we have advanced since Susie Orbach wrote Fat Is A Feminist Issue. Then, Orbach readily accepted that being fat was a problem. Even if fat was, invariably, all the fault of men, it was not, Orbach gracefully conceded, the most well-thought-out response: "Fat is an adaptation to the oppression of women and, as such, it may be an unsatisfying personal solution and an ineffective political attack."

Which is why these fat women needed Susie Orbach's talking cure for fatness: "It is to this problem that our compulsive eating therapy speaks."

But if, as Encore magazine now claims, "diet is a dirty word", the phrase "compulsive eating therapy" must be equally disagreeable. To those at the forefront of fat rehabilitation work, the word fat must be reclaimed from the adjective ghetto where it languished, until recently, alongside such outcasts as ugly, unhealthy and greedy. Next month, at an exhibition devoted to images of contented fat women, the Fat Women's Group will present awards to women who have

enhanced the image of female corpulence: "We are going to celebrate being fat." The fact that fat women might be smugly indifferent to male oppression is not the only significant challenge to Orbach's theory. If fat is a feminist issue, why are 13 per cent of British men obese too (compared with 16 per cent of women)? The answer is contained in yet another work of fat promotion, Richard Klein's book, Eat Fat, which comes out next year. He confirms that fat is no longer, if ever was, a feminist issue: for men like himself, fat is a lifestyle choice.

And this, according to Klein, a keen consumer and palpatist of fat, both on the plate and on the female body, is how should be. "Fat is beautiful, sexy and strong," he exults. "Fat is a fabulous three-letter word." His ideal

The fact that fat women might be indifferent to male oppression is not the only significant challenge to Orbach's theory

is the Venus of Willendorf, not often presented as a role-model for the young woman of today. But even Klein has to admit that limitless fat is not very good for you. His own mother, for example, became so fat she could no longer breathe when asleep — "her fat was suffocating her". Nor do most people seem to share his enthusiasm for five-bellied porn stars. It's just prejudice, he thinks.

Maybe he's right. After all, most of us are not doctors, and may feel quite indifferent

if half the population wishes to emulate physical decrepitude, followed by untimely death. We just don't like the look of it. Perhaps, as Klein suggests, we should put this distaste to one side, and consider the practical advantages of being fat.

For example, if famine returned to these shores, fat people might last longer than thin ones. If a hurricane read of a Michael Heseltine blown over so easily, if they fell into an icy sea, the fat might well stay afloat longer. On dry land, they can save on central heating, using their own insulation.

It doesn't really add up to much, does it? Certainly not enough to challenge the medical statistics, or to convert the majority of those who would like to lose, not gain, weight, whose ideal is to be like the Sun's latest heroine, Sylvia George, who can eat and eat without putting on weight.

Even without compelling arguments on its side, the fat movement could still make converts if it had some appropriate role models. Feminists, after a little searching, came up with Apha Behn, and Artemisia Gentileschi; they even made some useful capital from obscure wives, who could be presented, at a pinch, as the true authors of their famous husbands' work. So, too, fat campaigners must seek out great fat people in history. There's Frier Tuck, of course, Churchill, Dr Johnson, Balzac, Charles James and Oliver Hardy. Many famous thin people must have followed Jack Sprat's example, and lived with stout partners. Turning to the present day, the fat movement can boast the figures of Chancellor Kohl, Andrea Dworkin and Vanessa Felz. It would be helpful if the list could also include the female editor of Encore magazine. But she turns out to be a size 12. A ruthless place, Vogue House.

The three Rs: current crusaders want to add two more. But, Geoff Mulgan argues, morality is best formed by experience, not by lectures or rote learning

Rights and wrongs

FOR ANYONE who feels nauseous when they hear politicians preaching morality, this will be an uncomfortable week. The wave of concern that has followed Frances Lawrence's call last week for a moral crusade looks set to reach a crescendo this Friday when the National Forum for Values in Education publishes its long-awaited final report.

If the leaks are to be believed, the majority report will propose common values — the "new 10 commandments" — that children have to learn by heart, while a minority will demand a far more forceful assertion of the virtues of the nuclear family, marriage and monogamy.

Even though much of its contents will turn out to be pretty bland, for many liberals the very idea of the state trying to promote values is objectionable, as well as futile. But the public demand for some action to improve standards of behaviour, all the way from corporate directors shamelessly lining their pockets to young men rampaging down high streets on a Saturday night, is now irresistible.

In any case, governments can't help but influence people's morality. The messages they send through the curricula in schools, through how public services treat people, and how political leaders live their lives, inevitably shape the moral climate.

Unfortunately, like so many debates on morality in modern Britain, this one has gone badly astray. All the lessons learned, over many decades, about how morality is learned seem to have been ignored in a frenzy of pontification.



The first fundamental error is the belief that virtue and morality can be taught rather than learned. In the minds of the Nicky Bates and the leader writers is an image of a Victorian teacher spelling out step by step to obedient pupils the differences between right and wrong. In fact, as Aristotle understood more than 2,000 years ago, people can only be educated into a life of virtue through active participation in the life of a society, just as people can only be educated in music by making music, not by being told about it.

The best moral education is not based on chalk and talk, but on practical experiences, preferably outside the classroom, in which children learn to take responsibility, to deal with other people's needs, and to reflect continuously on the moral nature of their choices. The Italian phrase *impara fare, a merita da parte* (it is not until you do something that you learn it) captures the idea perfectly. It is through taking responsibility, and through making decisions, that the citizen is formed, not through classes explaining how laws are made or votes cast. In other words, the classical idea of

schooling, which treats children as passive infants waiting to receive knowledge, rather than as active citizens, is the very worst way to teach morality.

development is a world away from rote learning; indeed unless it involves doubts and criticisms, it is hardly a degrading at all.

Many of the best schools have curtailed these lessons. Their curricula include opportunities for children to run their own projects, to engage with the outside world, and to think rigorously about the moral implications of what they do. The best try to teach their pupils to think and philosophise can be discussed as young as five or six — so that they don't end up like most adults relying on one or two all-purpose justifications, such as traditional family values or religion, to guide them through their life.

Unfortunately, the pressures on schools are now pointing the opposite way. If you are judged solely by your exams then it is harder to put resources into providing practical and philosophical education. If your teachers are stressed simply coping with changing curricula, they are unlikely to have the spare energy to create imaginative ways for children to learn.

The good news, however, is that we now have available a far more useful source of thinking about moral education than crude new codes. A mass of research is showing that the best predictor of people's success in life is not their IQ or their academic qualifications, but rather what Daniel Goleman calls their "emotional intelligence": their ability to empathise with other people, to understand their feelings, to motivate and connect. These qualities are very close to what we would recognise as day-to-day moral qualities, and they are vital to making people good parents and good citizens. If your teachers are stressed simply coping with changing curricula, they are unlikely to have the spare energy to create imaginative ways for children to learn.

Frances Lawrence called in her manifesto for "a calm and quiet exploration of the problems". Instead, Britain's leaders and media have been loudly promoting a very backward-looking view of morality, one fit for an age of deference and authority that has now passed. It's had enough that anyone should think that morality can be rammed down people's throats. But it's even worse that so much of what is being proposed seems designed to produce obedient and passive citizens, rather than the active and responsible ones we really need.

Demos's Forum On Active Learning In The Community is holding a major conference on November 20 with speakers including Charles Handy and David Hunt MP. For further information call 0171 353 4479

Even voting's not what it used to be



David McKie

DEAR SIR, In the Evening Standard recently, Peter Kellner predicted a Labour majority at the next election of 59 seats. Yet now I read of a Michael Heseltine forecasting a Tory win by 60. Who is right? — JM, London SW1

DEAR JM, Kellner is a respected analyst whose predictions are based on close scrutiny of the evidence. Heseltine is a politician who will say whatever he thinks will best serve the cause of a Tory fifth term. My advice in these matters has always been unequivocal: go for the one more likely to be objective.

But today, one can't be so sure. One reason is the state of the polls. After the 1992 debacle the industry re-examined its methodology. The main reasons why things went wrong were swiftly agreed. The appropriate remedies weren't ICM in the Guardian made radical changes. They switched to random sampling using telephones; made substantial corrections to raw results on the basis of other evidence, including recollection of how respondents had voted before; and publicised "adjusted" figures rather than unadjusted ones. Changes elsewhere were less drastic, while some organisations still preferred unadjusted results to adjusted ones. Thus some newspapers nowadays indicate Labour leads of 30 points or more while others suggest 15.

In the Observer on September 15, Kellner offered himself as a peacekeeping force, suggesting that evidence drawn from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) might finally settle the arguments. But in the sad traditions of civil war, the participants largely ignored him. We now seem doomed to go into the coming election with a barrage of oracles all telling different stories, and no way of knowing which to prefer until we see the results.

Yet even if the polls were agreed, and right, forecasting would still be tougher than ever. Psephology is deeply attached to precedent. Thus at the last election, some commentators (like me) clung to two calculations. No party, not even Labour in 1945, had ever achieved the kind of swing Labour needed to get a working majority. But equally, no governing party had reversed from the depths of unpopularity which the Tories achieved in the

late days of Thatcher to get back into office. As a basis for predicting past contests, that might have worked pretty well. But the nature of British elections has substantially changed. Old loyalties, rational or instinctive, have crumbled; we have seen the rise of a shop-around vote, with the parties increasingly offering shop-around programmes.

Then there's the new profusion of minor parties. The one which most worries established parties, of course, is James Goldsmith's. The Telegraph got very excited on Saturday about a poll which it said suggested that the Referendum Party might have "a considerable impact" on the next election. The basis appeared to be that Goldsmith's support had topped 1 per cent. Others might think that, given the money spent on press adverts and his Brighton love-in, such an impact was pretty pitiful. But yesterday, under the heading "Poll says out Tory fears on Goldsmith", the Telegraph had another go, with a poll on behalf of HBSC James Capel among 1,000 former Tory voters. More than a third of wavering voters, it found, who thought they were likely to vote for the Referendum Party. Those brought up to distrust such hypothetical polls may not share the paper's excitement. Yet in today's uncertain electoral climate, who knows?

More unsettling still is the breakdown of the old, tried relationship between votes and seats. Through many elections, analysts simply assumed a uniform swing in every constituency, and relied on the raw averages to iron out the kinks. That worked well in 1985 and decently well in 1987, but in 1992 it was hopeless. On the basis of uniform swing you'd have expected a Tory lead over Labour of 7.5 per cent to give them a lead in seats of something like 60. In fact it was 21.

SOME of that may have been due to Labour's unexpected efficiency in seats where it mattered. There was clearly more tactical voting. There was also, perhaps, a greater degree of "kinkiness" in individual constituencies than before. That's a pattern the next election may well repeat, especially in Scotland and Wales — with the redistribution of many seats creating further uncertainties.

The news agency Reuter has created a panel of psephological experts whom it plans to ask every month to forecast/guess the election outcome. I'm told that one of this month's predictions puts Labour's majority as high as 125; there may also be those who still think the Tories can win. The best advice I can give you, JM, is that the result on polling day is likely to fall somewhere between these extremes.

But don't bet on it.

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Finance Guardian

Fund manager's 'wrong box' mistake causes chaos

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

ABUNGLING fund manager at the huge DI investment giant Edme Securities caused behind-the-scenes chaos during last month's £250 million break-up bid for the GT Chile Growth Fund after "locking the wrong box" in the formal share offer from predator, Hong Kong-based Regent Pacific.

supported the bid. This saved Regent from the embarrassment of seeing a complete boycott of its new investment vehicle.

But it also created huge confusion among City advisers because the surprise emergence of such an overwhelmingly large shareholder meant that Regent could not proceed under the planned listing of the new investment vehicle it was offering former GT Chile shareholders.

Regent yesterday admitted that Heine had made a mistake, after being questioned by the Guardian on details disclosed in offering documents. Up till now, Regent, which controls more than \$2 billion worth of investments, has refused to make any comment on problems in the break-up deal.

Ms Sutcliffe admitted this had created behind-the-scenes problems but said: "The issue of a fund needing a spread of shareholders is one for sponsors."

Although Regent has now been seen to have won virtually no mainstream institutional support for its own Chile investment fund, directors yesterday insisted that this had no adverse implications for the company's plans to go for an international share listing.

But she declined to comment further on the proposals which are expected to be announced over the next couple of months.

The international sale looks set to reap multi-million pound profits for seven Regent directors who hold a 30 per cent stake in the investment funds parent company, Regent Kingpin Capital Management.

Notebook Credit data best with pinch of salt



Edited by Mark Milner

FOR those at the Bank of England and Treasury who still shiver in the shadows of the 1980s Lawson boom, strong personal borrowing brings back bad memories. So yesterday's figures showing that net consumer credit remained above £1 billion for the tenth successive month — against City expectations — will fuel demands for higher interest rates.

future of the continent of Europe should be laid down according to British shopping schedules in general and the new year sales season in particular.

The British Retail Consortium, however, reckons that when and if the UK does sign up for a single currency, its members will be in the front line of making it work so it is worth getting its two penny worth in now. Actually it's a bit more than that. The RBC reckons the switch, as currently planned, will cost British retailers around £3.5 billion but, based on the experience of decimatisation, the costs could be halved by confining currency conversion to a single February day.

Bock quits Lonrho helm

Ian King

DIETER Bock, who ousted Tiny Rowland from Lonrho, yesterday stepped down as chief executive of the mining and hotels conglomerate after selling his £257 million stake to South African mining group Anglo-American.

to take a crucial step in the next fortnight with the £700 million-plus sale of the group's Princess and Metropole hotel chains.

It is understood that Mr Bock, who will continue to oversee the demerger as non-executive deputy chairman, felt it was best to sell his stake in Lonrho ahead of the break-up — preventing suspicions that he started the demerger solely for his own interest. He denied that he had sold his stake under pressure from his bankers.



Dieter Bock, who took on Lonrho's Tiny Rowland and was 'able to realise the value in the company' PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Mr Bock, who forced Mr Rowland out last year after a prolonged and bitter boardroom struggle, is expected to take a stake in the non-mining side of Lonrho once its demerger is completed next year, and even become chief executive of the business.

Mr Bock, who will be replaced as chief executive by deputy managing director Nick Morrell, is widely expected to buy Anglo's stake in the non-mining Lonrho assets after the demerger. These include a number of farming and sugar assets based in Africa, along with the Dutton-Forsyth and Jack Barclay car dealerships.

Mentor chosen to save company who turned against Rowland

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

ACHANNEL Islands subsidiary of the Union Bank of Switzerland has been charged with fraud by Jersey police investigating allegations involving currency dealing transactions worth up to \$2-million (£1.5 million).

Mr Bock, now 58, made his name in Germany as a property developer. He qualified as a lawyer in 1970, as a tax accountant three years later, and started investing in the property market from his Munich base in 1974. His trading vehicle, Advanta Management, grew to take in assets in Europe, South Africa and America and had assets of over DM200 million (about £80 million).

DIETER Bock was a financier little known outside his native Germany when he bought half Mr Rowland's stake and acquired an option on nearly all the remainder.

At the time, Mr Rowland insisted it was his age that had forced him into the move, but he appeared happy with the situation. However, cracks soon appeared in the relationship between the two and they were at war a year later.

Mr Bock first invested in Lonrho in December 1992 when he bought half Mr Rowland's stake and acquired an option on nearly all the remainder.

They clashed over the appointment of non-executive directors whom Mr Rowland likened to "decorations on a Christmas tree".

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1.57	France 7.99	Italy 2.403	Singapore 2.22
Austria 16.57	Germany 2.3725	Malta 0.5825	South Africa 7.81
Belgium 43.77	Greece 37.03	Netherlands 2.0635	Spain 199.85
Canada 2.133	Hong Kong 2.13	New Zealand 2.2	Sweden 10.18
Cyprus 0.72	India 57.47	Norway 10.08	Switzerland 1.856
Denmark 9.14	Japan 139.825	Portugal 246.5	Turkey 14.885
Finland 6.22	Spain 139.825	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.5735

Supplied by NatWestBank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Eddie George, the Bank's governor, will press his case for a rise in base rates when he meets Chancellor Kenneth Clarke today, and is likely to cite the credit figures in support of his case that the consumer-led boom is likely to re-ignite inflation and endanger the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target.

Lonrho epilogue

LONRHO was the creation of Tiny Rowland so it was never likely to survive his departure for too long.

Second, the detail of the data confirms that consumers remain highly price-sensitive. Credit card borrowing almost halved to £149 million in September, because the items most commonly paid for on plastic — clothes and shoes — had jumped in price. Shoppers looked at the price tags, and put their plastic back in their pockets.

Yesterday brought a further chapter in the division of his legacy with the sale of Dieter Bock's stake in the company to South African mining giant, Anglo-American.

Banging on

WHEN and how should monetary union take place? According to the European Union's political and economic establishment (or at least those parts which agree it should take place at all) it should start from January 1, 1999. Euro-notes and coins however, will not be brought in until 2002, replacing national currencies over a six-month period.

Anglo's purchase gives it almost 26 per cent of Lonrho but it is adamant it is not planning a full bid. One consequence is that other Lonrho shareholders are unlikely to be able, at least immediately, to bow out at the 180p a share which Anglo paid Mr Bock.

Swiss bank subsidiary faces fraud charges

Proton to take over Lotus with £50m rescue package

under Jersey fraud law of misleading and reckless statements between 1 January 1988 and 31 December 1993. The bank also stands accused of "concealing material facts which induced persons to take part in arrangements with respect to currency". Jersey police added that a Cantrade currency expert, Peter Stone-man, faces nine similar charges.

Investment manager who are seeking compensation of up to \$50 million.

Cantrade yesterday said that the management team had been changed since the alleged offences. "The charges against the bank are being investigated and, subject to the investigation, will be contested. A plea of not guilty will be entered," Cantrade said.

Asian motor tiger scoops racing name, reports Chris Barrie

THE Malaysian car company Proton is to take control of Lotus, the Norfolk-based sports car and engineering company, in a £50 million rescue bid.

Lotus was at a low ebb, having tumbled out of the FTSE-100 index after a disastrous slump in its shares after Robert Maxwell's death, which concentrated the City's mind on the perils of companies seemingly dominated by one man.

Motor industry sources indicated that Proton must have won GM's support for its bid to succeed, as the US group accounts for close to three-quarters of Lotus's engineering consultancy.

Lotus's 1,100 employees and clients will be hoping that the new partnership will bring calm after months of turbulence. Made famous by its motor-racing pedigree, the company has suffered acute cash flow problems after investing several million pounds in the £20,000 Elise and two new versions of its £40,000 Esprit. It also spent £3.5 million on new engine test cells.

Bright sparks give Clarke funding tips for tax cuts



F CHANCELLOR Kenneth Clarke is struggling to find new ways of funding Budget tax cuts he could do worse than to take a look at six bright ideas suggested yesterday — mostly by civil servants, writes Sarah Ryke.

managed to hold a driving licence.

Closing this loophole, she suggested, would promote safety by taking potentially dangerous drivers off the road as well as saving money by uncovering those who were not as needy as they claimed to be.

Dr Harris said cross-checking DVLA records with Benefits Agency records would show up people claiming to be severely disabled who nevertheless

Companies that fail to invest must cut bills

Water firms told to pass on savings

Nicholas Bannister
Technology Editor

OFWAT director general Ian Byatt yesterday ordered water companies which failed to meet their investment promises to pass on any resulting savings to customers through lower bills.

Mr Byatt, the industry regulator, said many water companies were showing they could become more efficient and could improve services while reducing expenditure in real terms. But several companies had materially changed the timing of their capital spending programmes from those set out in the strategic business plans submitted to him in 1994.

He said those companies "should not take up their full price limit next April". This would force them to keep price rises below the level agreed in 1994.

"If they have delayed capital programmes, perhaps for reasons outside their control, such as delays in getting planning permission, they should at least share the interest gain with their customers," he said. "The customer pays less in the short term and the company may take up its full price limit at a later stage without customers paying

higher bills than they would otherwise have done."

Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, said Ofwat's report on the financial and capital investment of the water companies, showed that in 1995-96 the industry's profits rose to its highest level since privatisation in 1989, while capital investment fell to its lowest point.

"A number of companies — unnamed by Ofwat — have broken promises on investment," he said.

Janet Langdon, director of the Water Services Association, representing the 10 privatised water and sewerage companies, said that amounts invested in capital programmes would necessarily vary from year to year. The investment programmes in the first five years after privatisation had been completed on time and in full and companies had spent £1 billion more than originally planned. "Many things influence the timing of investment," she said. "These include the development of new technical solutions, the acquisition of planning permissions, and the need to schedule work so as to cause minimum disruption and inconvenience to local communities."

Thames Water, Britain's largest water company, which completed construction of the

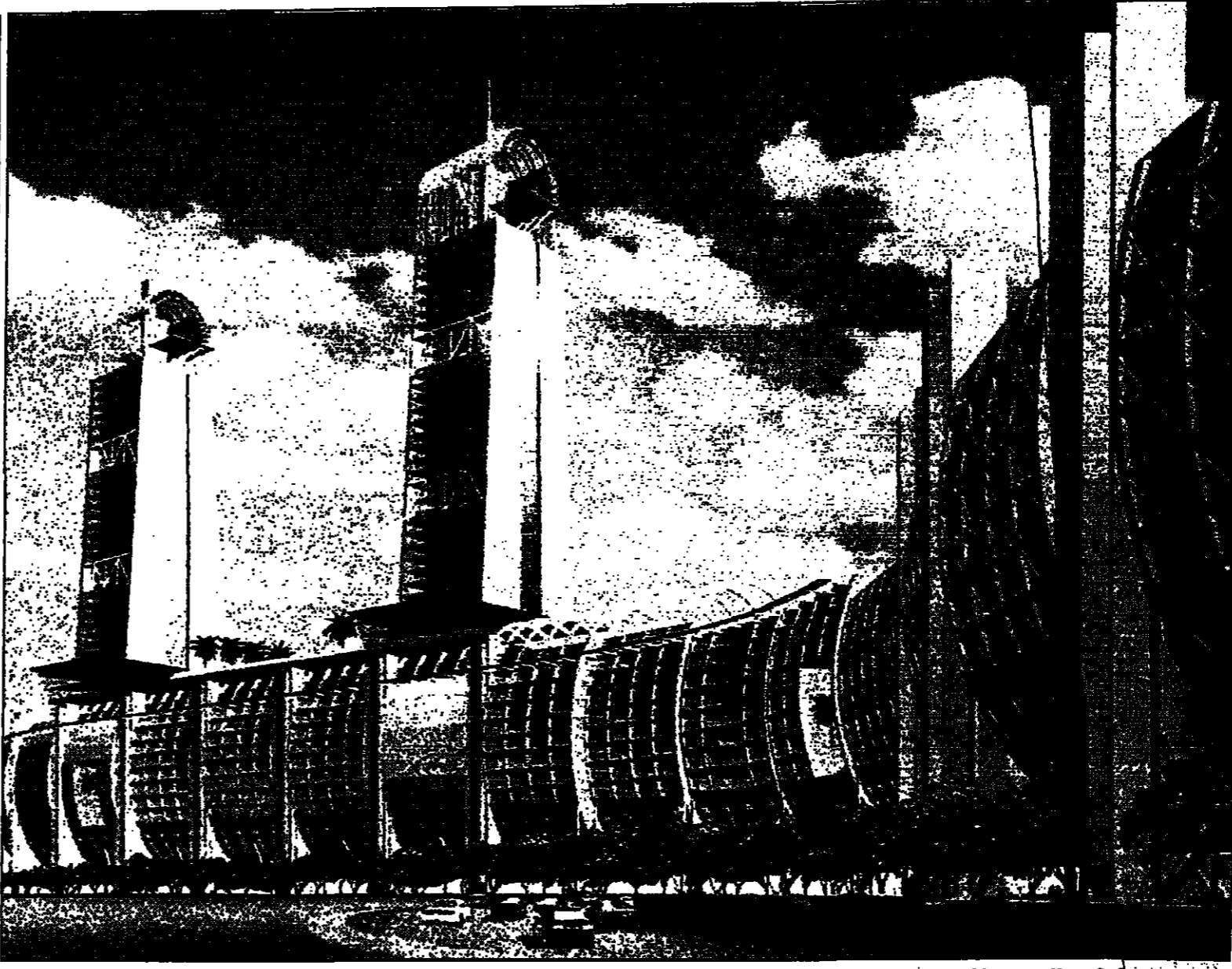
London ring main ahead of schedule, said that its customers preferred savings to be spent on improving services than on "knocking two or three pounds off the annual bill".

Thames Water opened the industry's first-half results season with a 6.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits and a 22 per cent increase in the interim dividend.

Overall profits were hit by the £12 million cost of buying back convertible bonds. But profits of the regulated business rose 8 per cent to £181.8 million, while the non-regulated operations, shorn of the stand-alone design and construction businesses, turned a £3 million loss into a £9 million profit.

Chairman Sir Robert Clarke said the bulk of the dividend rise had been funded by the non-regulated businesses. Thames is to spend an extra £150 million over the next five years on capital projects, including work on leakage reduction and reduced sewer flooding, and an early start to its south-west Oxfordshire reservoir project.

The group's shares closed 10p up at 550p, with all the other big quoted water groups also posting gains, with the exception of South West Water and United Utilities.



Malaysia boasts the world's tallest building, Petronas Towers. Now it is to add the longest. The £1.3 billion Giga World's 1 1/2 miles of offices, theatres and malls, plus mono-rail, will rise on stilts above the Klang river as the heart of a 7-mile linear city under a deal signed with contractors yesterday.

Clark shake-up after chairman dies suddenly

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

THE sudden death of Michael Cottrell, chairman of Matthew Clark, yesterday prompted the beleaguered drinks company to rush out the announcement of a senior management reshuffle aimed at showing the City that it is dealing with the problems which last month resulted in a major profits warning.

Mr Cottrell, 58, who is understood to have suffered a heart attack on Sunday night, will be replaced by non-executive director Michael Gardner until a suitable candidate for chairman has been found.

The company also seized the opportunity to announce that it is boosting its marketing operation of major cider brands and taking steps to deal with competition from "alcopops". It added that there are no plans to cut the dividend.

Since last month's warning that its market share was coming under threat, the company's shares more than halved in value. Yesterday, they firmed 17.5p to 317.5p. As part of the restructuring, Matthew Clark is beefing up its marketing division with the creation of a new board position of marketing director. The sales force is being increased; there will be 40 new jobs.

The job of managing director, Branded Drinks Division, is being scrapped and this will result in Andrew Nash quitting the group. The company yesterday declined to speculate on how much compensation he will be paid.

The company will not be ready to present the findings of an exhaustive marketing strategy review until the publication of its interim results for the half-year to 31 October.

It said that the findings so far confirmed that its pre-

mium brands like Diamond White and Babycham are being squeezed by rival "alcopops". In a statement, Matthew Clark said: "For the first five months of this financial year, these brands were down 30 per cent in volume."

But, it insisted: "Trading in the cider category has now stabilised following the severe trading environment experienced during the summer. We expect the underlying growth within the cider market as a whole to resume."

It said that during June and July, draught cider generally had been down by 10 per cent.

Across the whole of the summer, the group's draught cider volumes were down by 15 per cent having been marginally ahead of last year at the end of June. In the off trade, packaged cider market, although our mainstream brands are ahead of last year, the group has lost some market share in the price competitive own label areas.

The statement continued: "As always, Christmas trading will be a key factor in determining the group's full-year outcome. The early signs are that volumes are trading in line with expectations."

But Ms David pointed to a drop in borrowing on plastic to £149 million in September, half the previous month's level. She said the fall might reflect lower sales of clothing and shoes.

The Bank said mortgage approvals rose to 94,000 last month from 90,000 in August — and 72,000 in September last year. Market-watchers said the increase indicated that the property market was still on the way up.

Confirmation of a housing market recovery came when the Council of Mortgage Lenders said loan approvals remained steady at £5.9 billion last month.

According to the BRC's re-

Credit spree in high street

Richard Thomas

FEARS of a premature end to Britain's high street mini-boom eased yesterday with the release of figures showing strong consumer borrowing and buoyant demand for home loans.

Consumers raised their borrowing by £1,067 million in September, compared to £1,044 million in August and 16.2 per cent up on September 1995 — the highest annual growth rate for more than three years, according to the Bank of England.

With the Governor, Eddie George, calling for higher interest rates to choke off possible inflation when he made Chancellor Kenneth Clarke today, City analysts said consumers were still splashing out.

Dharshini David, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said: "With incomes going up, consumers may be snapping up high-street credit deals. They are generally feeling a bit more confident."

But Ms David pointed to a drop in borrowing on plastic to £149 million in September, half the previous month's level. She said the fall might reflect lower sales of clothing and shoes.

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According to the BRC's re-

Maastricht maelstrom 2

German deficit 'will fail single currency test'

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERMANY will fail to meet one of the main conditions for the common European currency next year, the country's leading economic think-tanks said yesterday.

In their annual analysis of German and global economic trends, the six institutes warned that government budget-cutting to meet single currency terms risked damaging the modest recovery.

France's hopes of qualification also suffered a blow yesterday when it emerged that plans to include a \$4.8 billion payment from France's Telecom's pension fund in the 1997 budget had not yet been approved by the European Union. The payment is crucial to France getting its deficit below the Maastricht treaty ceiling of 3 per cent of GDP.

The institutes said Germany could fail the same test. Next year's economic performance will be used to decide who can join the common currency, the euro, when it is introduced for "wholesale" money in 1999.

Despite routine government claims that economic and monetary union will help cut Germany's unemployment of about 4 million, the report argued that the restrictive budgetary policy required by the single currency effort would hamper job creation.

The report came on the eve of today's emergency budget debate in the Bundestag. Theo Waigel, the finance minister, is expected to come under fire for sowing financial confusion and failing to present clear arithmetic on the crucial 1997 budget. For the past two weeks Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition has been split over tax rises and spending

cuts in the desperate drive to qualify for monetary union. "German financial policy is ruled by panic," the institutes said. "The proposals to plug the constantly recurring budget gaps are generally marked by hectic action. There is a danger of losing sight of medium-term concepts." The panic was costing the government credibility, "nor can it be ruled out that resentment against EMU will increase."

Despite Germany's emergence from stagnation to growth of 1.5 per cent this year and 2.5 per cent next year, this year's budget deficit will be DM144 billion, 4 per cent of GDP and DM120 billion up on last year, the institutes said. That should fall next year by DM17 billion to DM127 billion. "The deficit will be 3.5 per cent of GDP. That means the criteria in the Maastricht treaty for the deficit and state debt will not be achieved in 1997."

News in brief

Rogue dealer case hits unit trust sales

ROGUE fund manager Peter Young's alleged deception at Morgan Grenfell took a heavy toll on unit trust sales last month, according to figures published yesterday. Net retail investment in unit trusts slumped by 40 per cent to £206 million in September, against £347 million in August, largely as result of heavy redemptions by nervous Morgan Grenfell investors. Hardest hit were European funds as private investors withdrew £30 million. The two investment funds managed by Mr Young specialised in European stocks.

The company confirmed that it had sold the £47 million stake in British Biotech held by two of Mr Young's funds, the M European Growth Trust and the MG European Capital Growth Fund. British Biotech, the UK's leading biotechnology stock, said it was pleased that the shares had gone to institutional shareholders who had been keen to buy stock for some time.

Richard Miles and Tony May

Taxman's 'credit card bribes'

INLAND Revenue "ghostbuster" Michael Allcock accepted bribes paid through his bank and credit-card accounts totalling more than £135,000 in the 1980s and early 1990s, the Old Bailey heard yesterday. The money was paid by the people he was supposed to be chasing for tax, the Crown said. Jurors heard how £87,806 had been paid off credit cards, and more than £79,000 was paid into bank accounts held at Lloyds and Barclays, John Black prosecuting, told the court. Explanations Mr Allcock had given for the money were false, he said.

Mr Allcock, aged 47, from Colchester, Essex, has denied 13 charges of corruption between 1987 and 1992. Hisham Alwan, 56, from Knightsbridge, London, has denied three charges of bribing him, and David Shamoun, 66, from West Kensington, has denied an allegation of bribing him. — *Dan Ackton*

EC work plea watered down

EUROPEAN Commission proposals for the World Trade Organisation to monitor third world working conditions have been watered down after opposition from Britain, Germany, Spain and Italy. Instead the Singapore WTO meeting in December will be asked to attach importance to the International Labour Organisation's efforts to promote core standards.

A British government statement said: "Britain is wholly opposed to the use of trade sanctions to enforce international labour standards. It does not accept that international standards are an appropriate subject for the WTO," but other EU member states see opposition as an attempt to undermine pursuit of higher living standards. — *Stephen Bates*

Zeneca's seed growth

ZENECA, Britain's third biggest drug group, said yesterday that its sales during the first nine months of the year had grown by 14 per cent to £4.1 billion. Zeneca, which has been the subject of persistent bid speculation, said the increase was mainly due to strong volume growth, though it warned that pricing pressures continued in Japan and some European markets. The biggest improvement was in seeds, where sales rose by 21 per cent to £117 million, but the biggest sales were in the core pharmaceuticals division, up 14 per cent at £1.9 billion. Its specialities division had notched up a 9 per cent improvement to £892 million, helped by strong sales of Quorn meat substitute led by its Stahl leather business. But Zeneca shares closed down 67p at 1713 1/2p, due mainly to profit-taking, according to analysts. — *Ian King*



Michael Cottrell: Suffered heart attack

Maastricht maelstrom 1

Price of the euro: £3.5bn

Sarah Ryle

SCRAPPING sterling in favour of the euro will cost traders and customers £3.5 billion, UK retailers warned yesterday. They attacked proposals drawn up in Brussels as "potentially unworkable".

The British Retail Consortium said the bill could be halved by adopting the "Big Bang" approach to decimalisation of February 15, 1971. Instead of following the planned dual pricing for six months, customers should be able to tender pounds but only receive change in euros.

According to the BRC's re-

port on the impact of monetary union, the other key problem will be the proposed date for the changeover to euro notes and coins in 2002.

"The January 1 start date is one of the worst possible times. It is right in the middle of the post-Christmas sales when the shops will be at their busiest. Mid-February would be much better as the shops are quieter," said Andrew Higginson, chairman of the BRC economic affairs committee.

The £3.5 billion price tag on conversion would consist of software to handle new and old currency simultaneously during the six-month changeover and then software to

handle just euros; increased staff levels during transition and training; and dual labelling of old and new prices.

The BRC added that indirect costs not included in the final estimated bill could include a surge in retail demand before the change and a fall after, as the exchange rate which puts a 99p item at £1.20 would make customers feel goods were more expensive even if retailers did not pass on any transaction costs.

Traders called for maximum consultation and minimum legislation from government and warned a last-minute decision on monetary union could put them at a disadvantage.

7.30am HEATHROW Iberia: First to Madrid

We've got more time for you

7.55pm MADRID Iberia: Last back to Heathrow

IBERIA

0721 201320

Racing

Ron Cox marks your card with 12 to follow for the National Hunt season

Stay one jump ahead with She Woods

THE Oliver Sherwood stable had a hectic time with injuries and various setbacks to their best horses last season...

ANTONIN: Only a six-year-old without completing the Racing Post/Rite Club Chase double two seasons ago...

BILLYGOAT GRUFF: Made a smooth transition to chasing last season when he won the Helmsdale Gold Cup...

CHARMING GIRL: Stepped up from winning minor novice events to following home Tropic Here at Ascot...

JACK TANNER: The staying hurdlers division looks rather weak this season and Jack Tanner promises to develop into one of the leading exponents...

MAKE A STAND: Rattled off a hat-trick in novice hurdles in the second half of last season, clocking fast times...



Down to earth... Patrick McLoughlin parts company from The Knitter in the opening maiden hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday

PRINCEFUL: Despite looking far from fully wound up, this gelding by Electric lived up to his sire's name with a power-packed 12 lengths success...

READY MONEY CREEK: Had the misfortune to come up against Mary Reveley's highly-regarded Marengo at Ayr on his NH Flat race debut...

SIERRA BAY: You have to go back to April 1995 to find Sierra Bay's only start — a three lengths NH Flat race second at Ascot...

STRONG DEEL: Though none too consistent last season, a Wetherby second to Un-guided Missile shows what Strong Deel is capable of...

WELCOME CALL: Winner of two point-to-points in Ireland, Welcome Call landed a gamble for his present connections in a 3m novice hurdle at Newbury...

HERBERT LODGE: A claim for the season's top novice hurdles prizes with an easy victory in the Cheltenham And Three Counties Race Club Maiden Hurdle yesterday...

more than two years ago with a lofty reputation, was running for the first time since fracturing a pelvis back in November 1994...

SPORTS NEWS 13

Sport in brief

Warwickshire ready to try again with Lara

WARWICKSHIRE are sounding out Brian Lara about a return to Edgbaston as the county's overseas cricketer for 1998...

Nemeth is under pressure

LASZLO NEMETH has been bound and gagged — bound by financial constraints, gagged by the English Baseball Association — and he will be lucky to escape with a European Championship win against Latvia at Leicester today...

Harding skates to the rescue

TONYA HARDING, the United States ice skater banned from the sport for life for her part in an assault on her main American rival Nancy Kerrigan before the 1994 Winter Olympics...

\$2,000 for knee-jerk reaction

THE WIFE of the International Olympic Committee's vice-president Dick Pound has been fined \$2,000 (£1,250) for a run-in with an Atlanta policeman during this year's Olympic Games...

Law has a title unto himself

LESLIE LAW, who had to pull out of the Olympic individual eventing championship in his recent New Zealand development a heel injury just before the start, earned some consolation for his Atlanta disappointment when he was named Britain's top event rider of the season...

Swiss to enter America's Cup

LAND-LOCKED Switzerland is to enter a boat in the America's Cup for the first time, writes Bob Fisher. A challenge is to be made from the Club Nautique de Morges on Lake Geneva by a syndicate led by Marc Pajot and Pierre Felhmann...

Yarmouth card with guide to the form

Racing card for Yarmouth with race details, horse names, and jockey information.

Cheltenham National Hunt programme

Racing card for Cheltenham National Hunt programme with race details and horse names.

Fontwell (N.H.) runners and riders

Racing card for Fontwell (N.H.) with race details and horse names.

Decorated hero, trained by John Gosden, completed a four-timer when landing the Prix Phil Drake at Evry yesterday...

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Results

LEICESTER: 1.06-1.08, 1.09-1.11, 1.12-1.14, 1.15-1.17, 1.18-1.20, 1.21-1.23, 1.24-1.26, 1.27-1.29, 1.30-1.32, 1.33-1.35, 1.36-1.38, 1.39-1.41, 1.42-1.44, 1.45-1.47, 1.48-1.50, 1.51-1.53, 1.54-1.56, 1.57-1.59, 1.60-1.62, 1.63-1.65, 1.66-1.68, 1.69-1.71, 1.72-1.74, 1.75-1.77, 1.78-1.80, 1.81-1.83, 1.84-1.86, 1.87-1.89, 1.90-1.92, 1.93-1.95, 1.96-1.98, 1.99-2.01, 2.02-2.04, 2.05-2.07, 2.08-2.10, 2.11-2.13, 2.14-2.16, 2.17-2.19, 2.20-2.22, 2.23-2.25, 2.26-2.28, 2.29-2.31, 2.32-2.34, 2.35-2.37, 2.38-2.40, 2.41-2.43, 2.44-2.46, 2.47-2.49, 2.50-2.52, 2.53-2.55, 2.56-2.58, 2.59-2.61, 2.62-2.64, 2.65-2.67, 2.68-2.70, 2.71-2.73, 2.74-2.76, 2.77-2.79, 2.80-2.82, 2.83-2.85, 2.86-2.88, 2.89-2.91, 2.92-2.94, 2.95-2.97, 2.98-3.00, 3.01-3.03, 3.04-3.06, 3.07-3.09, 3.10-3.12, 3.13-3.15, 3.16-3.18, 3.19-3.21, 3.22-3.24, 3.25-3.27, 3.28-3.30, 3.31-3.33, 3.34-3.36, 3.37-3.39, 3.40-3.42, 3.43-3.45, 3.46-3.48, 3.49-3.51, 3.52-3.54, 3.55-3.57, 3.58-3.60, 3.61-3.63, 3.64-3.66, 3.67-3.69, 3.70-3.72, 3.73-3.75, 3.76-3.78, 3.79-3.81, 3.82-3.84, 3.85-3.87, 3.88-3.90, 3.91-3.93, 3.94-3.96, 3.97-3.99, 4.00-4.02, 4.03-4.05, 4.06-4.08, 4.09-4.11, 4.12-4.14, 4.15-4.17, 4.18-4.20, 4.21-4.23, 4.24-4.26, 4.27-4.29, 4.30-4.32, 4.33-4.35, 4.36-4.38, 4.39-4.41, 4.42-4.44, 4.45-4.47, 4.48-4.50, 4.51-4.53, 4.54-4.56, 4.57-4.59, 4.60-4.62, 4.63-4.65, 4.66-4.68, 4.69-4.71, 4.72-4.74, 4.75-4.77, 4.78-4.80, 4.81-4.83, 4.84-4.86, 4.87-4.89, 4.90-4.92, 4.93-4.95, 4.96-4.98, 4.99-5.01, 5.02-5.04, 5.05-5.07, 5.08-5.10, 5.11-5.13, 5.14-5.16, 5.17-5.19, 5.20-5.22, 5.23-5.25, 5.26-5.28, 5.29-5.31, 5.32-5.34, 5.35-5.37, 5.38-5.40, 5.41-5.43, 5.44-5.46, 5.47-5.49, 5.50-5.52, 5.53-5.55, 5.56-5.58, 5.59-5.61, 5.62-5.64, 5.65-5.67, 5.68-5.70, 5.71-5.73, 5.74-5.76, 5.77-5.79, 5.80-5.82, 5.83-5.85, 5.86-5.88, 5.89-5.91, 5.92-5.94, 5.95-5.97, 5.98-6.00, 6.01-6.03, 6.04-6.06, 6.07-6.09, 6.10-6.12, 6.13-6.15, 6.16-6.18, 6.19-6.21, 6.22-6.24, 6.25-6.27, 6.28-6.30, 6.31-6.33, 6.34-6.36, 6.37-6.39, 6.40-6.42, 6.43-6.45, 6.46-6.48, 6.49-6.51, 6.52-6.54, 6.55-6.57, 6.58-6.60, 6.61-6.63, 6.64-6.66, 6.67-6.69, 6.70-6.72, 6.73-6.75, 6.76-6.78, 6.79-6.81, 6.82-6.84, 6.85-6.87, 6.88-6.90, 6.91-6.93, 6.94-6.96, 6.97-6.99, 7.00-7.02, 7.03-7.05, 7.06-7.08, 7.09-7.11, 7.12-7.14, 7.15-7.17, 7.18-7.20, 7.21-7.23, 7.24-7.26, 7.27-7.29, 7.30-7.32, 7.33-7.35, 7.36-7.38, 7.39-7.41, 7.42-7.44, 7.45-7.47, 7.48-7.50, 7.51-7.53, 7.54-7.56, 7.57-7.59, 7.60-7.62, 7.63-7.65, 7.66-7.68, 7.69-7.71, 7.72-7.74, 7.75-7.77, 7.78-7.80, 7.81-7.83, 7.84-7.86, 7.87-7.89, 7.90-7.92, 7.93-7.95, 7.96-7.98, 7.99-8.01, 8.02-8.04, 8.05-8.07, 8.08-8.10, 8.11-8.13, 8.14-8.16, 8.17-8.19, 8.20-8.22, 8.23-8.25, 8.26-8.28, 8.29-8.31, 8.32-8.34, 8.35-8.37, 8.38-8.40, 8.41-8.43, 8.44-8.46, 8.47-8.49, 8.50-8.52, 8.53-8.55, 8.56-8.58, 8.59-8.61, 8.62-8.64, 8.65-8.67, 8.68-8.70, 8.71-8.73, 8.74-8.76, 8.77-8.79, 8.80-8.82, 8.83-8.85, 8.86-8.88, 8.89-8.91, 8.92-8.94, 8.95-8.97, 8.98-9.00, 9.01-9.03, 9.04-9.06, 9.07-9.09, 9.10-9.12, 9.13-9.15, 9.16-9.18, 9.19-9.21, 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13.95-13.97, 13.98-13.99, 14.00-14.02, 14.03-14.05, 14.06-14.08, 14.09-14.11, 14.12-14.14, 14.15-14.17, 14.18-14.20, 14.21-14.23, 14.24-14.26, 14.27-14.29, 14.30-14.32, 14.33-14.35, 14.36-14.38, 14.39-14.41, 14.42-14.44, 14.45-14.47, 14.48-14.50, 14.51-14.53, 14.54-14.56, 14.57-14.59, 14.60-14.62, 14.63-14.65, 14.66-14.68, 14.69-14.71, 14.72-14.74, 14.75-14.77, 14.78-14.80, 14.81-14.83, 14.84-14.86, 14.87-14.89, 14.90-14.92, 14.93-14.95, 14.96-14.98, 14.99-15.01, 15.02-15.04, 15.05-15.07, 15.08-15.10, 15.11-15.13, 15.14-

Rugby Union

League One: Bath 76, Bristol 7

Overflowing Bath pour on 11 tries

Robert Armstrong

BATH inflicted a humiliating record defeat on Bristol with an astonishing exhibition of free-running excitement at the Recreation Ground last night when 11 tries were scored among nine players.

After a quiet opening quarter every Bath player turned in a performance of sustained high quality, and particularly the centres Henry Paul and Jeremy Guscott, who scored two tries apiece and supplied the final pass for a number of others.

The Bath pack tested Bristol early on with a series of powerful, organised mauls, one of which caused Bristol to retreat 20 metres into their own half, where they conceded a penalty for pulling down. Catt, deputising as goalkeeper for the injured Callard, slotted home the penalty goal from 35 metres.

They of a slick pass by Paul. Catt converted the first, hit the post with his next conversion attempt and then kicked a penalty goal from 20 metres for a 19-0 lead.

Towards the end Bath were tearing open the Bristol defence at will and their scrum-half Charlie Harrison not only scored a try but also kicked two conversions when Catt was injured.

Bath join hunt for Atherton

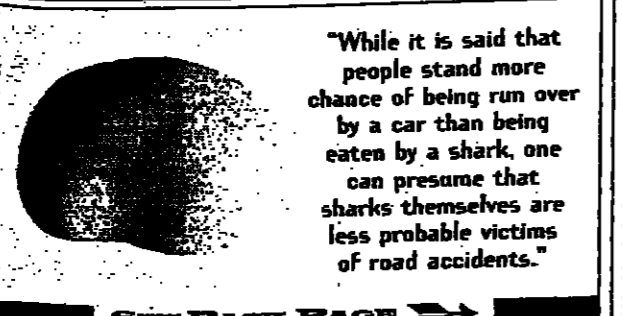
BATH are looking to South Africa in a new attempt to shore up their faltering front five. Following their approach for Argentina's hooker Federico Mendez, the Courage League champions have now turned their attention to the Springbok lock Steve Atherton, who, like Mendez, is currently with Natal.

Richmond are also in the hunt for Atherton and the League Two club and Harlequins are considering moves for the wing Cabous van der Westhuizen. Natal's all-time leading try-scorer, Brian van Zyl, the Natal Rugby Union chief executive, yesterday confirmed that Atherton had flown to London.

Wasps claiming points for West's no-show at Sudbury

WASPS have requested the two points for tonight's aborted Courage League match against West Hartlepool, who successfully approached English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPRUC) and the RFU for a postponement because of a run of injuries prevented them naming the five front-row players required in total.

Wasps claim to have incurred four-figure expenses for the non-event at Sudbury. Their chief executive Geoff Hinchstep, who had earlier asked for an EPRUC ruling over West's request for postponement, said: "We want the game played tomorrow, so we want the two points now and we have written to EPRUC saying so. We don't want to arrange it. We are not interested in the points-difference rule."



"While it is said that people stand more chance of being run over by a car than being eaten by a shark, one can presume that sharks themselves are less probable victims of road accidents."



Yankees go home... Broadway salutes New York's World Series-winning heroes

Three million bury Yankees in a ticker-tape avalanche

lan Katz watches the Big Apple give a rousing welcome to New York's finest

THEY stopped making ticker-tape years ago but that was not going to stop New York celebrating its sweetest sporting triumph of recent years in the time-honoured fashion.

So tons of shredded computer paper and toilet tissue rained down on Broadway yesterday as more than three million New Yorkers lined the so-called "Canyon of Heroes" to salute the Yankee team that brought the World Series back to the city for the first time in a decade.

Thousands of fans camped along the route of the parade from the early hours to catch a glimpse of the team that won hearts by fighting back from a seemingly insurmountable 2-0 deficit in the best-of-seven series against the Atlanta Braves.

Several thousand more gathered outside City Hall where Placido Domingo led them in a rendition of the ballpark standard "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and announced he was looking forward to another Yankee victory in next year's "world series".

Tennis

Ailing Krjicek fined after another first-round defeat

Richard Jago in Paris THE Wimbledon champion Richard Krjicek refused to be interviewed and suffered a \$500 (£318) fine after his fourth opening-round defeat in seven tournaments since the greatest triumph of his career.

He complained of feeling sick and unwell during his 6-3, 1-6, 7-5 defeat in the Paris Open by the world No. 19 Alberto Berasategui, who was surprised to find himself able to recover from 4-1 down in the final set.

Boxing

King in arrest threat as delay over Lewis-McCall fight goes to court

THE American promoter Don King and Jose Sulaiman, president of the World Boxing Council, have been warned they face arrest if they fail to appear before a New Jersey Court next month to "show cause" why a month's extension was granted to Lennox Lewis's heavyweight championship fight against Oliver McCall.

Judge Amos Saunders will want to know at the November 14 hearing why rules were violated when the WBC decided to extend the fight deadline from December 26 to January 26, and why no contracts were issued in line with WBC regulations.

Rugby League

New owners seek Leeds revival

Paul Fitzpatrick

THE electronic scoreboard at Leeds rugby league club was back in operation yesterday, flashing out the good news: "Headingley saved".

Sir Lawrence to listen to the voice of the people. There is little doubt that a 14,000-name petition helped the league club to decide against a takeover offer from the Caspian group - it would have meant moving to Elland Road with Leeds United - and opt for Caddick's package.

Their prime object is to restore the fortunes of the club which, after appearing in the 1994 and 1995 Challenge Cup finals, finished third from bottom in the first Super League season. But Yorkshire also figure in their plans.

The arrival at Headingley of Hetherington, who on Monday was still with the Great Britain squad in New Zealand, was one of the game's best kept secrets. It would have come as a major surprise to Sheffield's followers.

Goilding injury blow to Lions' hopes of avoiding whitewash

Andy Wilson in Christchurch

GREAT Britain's chances of avoiding a whitewash in Friday's third Test against New Zealand suffered another setback when Bobbie Goilding joined a growing injury list.

Goilding's absence would expose a lack of half-back cover. Tuisen Tollett was one of the 11 players withdrawn from the tour last week; Tony Smith was then forced out with an arm infection.

The Guardian International & The Observer Travel Bag



This classic navy travel bag branded with the Guardian International and Observer logos is constructed from a water resistant, durable PVC. The many notable features include a heavy duty shoulder strap, carry handle and double ended zipper compartments.

Warwickshire go for Lara again, page 13
Ferguson's test of nerve, page 14

Everton pay £5.75m for Barmby, page 14
New lifeline for Headingley, page 15

SportsGuardian

SOCCER

Uefa Cup, second round, second leg: Newcastle United 4, Ferencvaros 0 (agg: 6-3)

Asprilla calls the Toon

Michael Walker

It would be fair to say that Faustino Asprilla has had his problems since his £7.5 million transfer to Newcastle last February. But all those no-shows, late shows and even early shows were forgotten last night when the Colombian arrived right on time with two goals that ensured Newcastle an ultimately comfortable passage into the third round of the Uefa Cup.

Goals from Asprilla either side of the break gave Newcastle a platform and a beauty from David Ginola justified Kevin Keegan's decision to field such a progressive line-up. Ferdinand's fourth in injury-time was well deserved. Keegan, showing a typical disregard for conservative formations, selected a team packed with attackers. Shearer may be out injured but Gillespie, Asprilla, Ginola and Ferdinand all started, not forgetting Beardsley in midfield.

With Newcastle needing a victory that meant room for only three defenders at the back. Out went both full-backs from the first leg, Beresford and Watson, and Elliott was brought in to accompany Peacock and Albert Lisztes. Ferencvaros's young playmaker who scored two stylish goals in Budapest a fortnight ago, was absent but his replacement Jagodics was initially a commanding centre-circle figure.

In the sixth minute a lightning quick one-two between Asprilla and Ferdinand was only ended by the goalkeeper Szeller's intervention. The resurgent Ginola then flashed a shot wide and Asprilla fired over the bar when well placed 12 yards out from Lee's run and pass.

Twenty minutes had gone and by now Newcastle were dominant. And three minutes later it seemed they had achieved that vital break-



French trip... David Ginola, scorer of Newcastle United's third goal, is sent flying by the Ferencvaros defender Telek

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

through. Elliott created the chance with an aggressive, skilful weaving run down the left. Having reached the by-line Elliott crossed low, Asprilla surged towards the ball and Jagodics lunged in. Unfortunately for Jagodics

the attempted tackle was judged late by the referee and a penalty inevitable. A goal, though, was not. Beardsley's spot-kick was cleanly struck but it clipped the outside of a post.

Newcastle's confidence it was not obvious. The Geordies continued to pour forward and long before half-time were facing a 10-man Hungarian defence. A dazzling Ginola burst culminated with a shot that skimmed the bar

and the Frenchman then saw his technically brilliant half-volley splendidly saved by Szeller.

In between, Asprilla's slick footwork almost brought a goal but three minutes before the interval the Colombian did find the net. Continual pressure brought a series of Gillespie corners and when Albert got sufficient contact to the latest one Asprilla was on hand to pounce and stuck the ball into the corner.

It is, of course, not part of the Newcastle philosophy to sit on a 1-0 lead, even though that scoreline would have been enough to take them through. Gillespie, particularly, had no thoughts of containment and the troubled Irishman's 10 minutes after half-time must have been his best on Tyneside.

In this period three jinking runs from Gillespie brought two clear chances. Ferdinand practically head-butted the first wide from seven yards

out and Ginola spanked the second onto the bar. The ball crashed down onto the line but it was hard to tell if it crossed it. The Russian linesman said "niet".

No matter, by the 20th minute of the second half Newcastle would be first two, and then three, ahead. Asprilla got his second of the evening just before the hour when he collected Peacock's header, advanced on Szeller and coolly plonked the ball in with the side of his right foot.

But if that was even better, Ginola's goal was good, then following yet another Gillespie corner Ginola controlled the edge of the area before sending an unstoppable volley high back beyond Szeller.

Newcastle United: Striker: Peacock, Albert, Elliott, Barry, Lee, Beardsley, Gillespie (Barton, Sotiri, Ginola, Asprilla).
Ferencvaros: Szeller; Telek, Kuzmsov (Arany, Szil, Hrutka, Szocs, Nyilas, Miruts Zavadzsky, Soli, Jagodics, N Nagy, Horvath, Hatala, 73, Nisemala, Referees: S Krasavtsov (Russia).

Hide behind the sofa, Eric has it taped



Jim White

POP DOWN to your local video superstore and you will get a fair idea of what you will be receiving for Christmas this year. Bonfire Night may not yet have arrived but those whose fortunes depend on such things decided months ago what it is you will be unwrapping in eight weeks' time.

If your loved ones have ever heard you snigger about a footballer's haircut or his wife's taste in home furnishings, or the size of a centre forward's backside, one of them will think it a good idea to buy you a comedy football video. There's a lot of us out there in the target market, according to those in the know, the video business hopes to sell three million such items over the next two months.

And the choice, judging by the groaning shelves at HMV, is huge. There are the compilations and out-takes from television shows such as "They Think It's All Over" and "Fantasy Football". There are the amusing cock-ups from the archive, voiced amusingly by a figure of the moment such as "Nick Hancock's Football Nightmares" or "Footballers Behaving Badly" with Neil Morrissey. There are, too, unamusing cock-ups from the archive voiced unamusingly by has-beens such as Saint and Greavsie's "It's A Funny Old Game" or "Drugs, Mugs and Thugs" with George Best and Rodney Marsh. But if your loved ones really don't like you, then there is another category to enable them to prove their contempt, at present occupied by only one product: Eric Hall's "Monster Hits... ish".

The last year has seen the emergence and apparently inexorable rise of Eric Hall. Not so much as an agent - he has, after all, been fostering trouble for his clients and their employers for more than a decade - but as a personality. Fired by an addiction for self-promotion, Hall has seized every opportunity offered by football's present media ubiquity. As the critic Victor Lewis Smith once wrote of another ego-junkie, when Hall answers the phone he doesn't say "Hello", he just says "Til

do it". Quizzes, chat-shows, radio phone-ins on obscure AM stations, he'll do anything to raise his own profile.

Most comically he has turned up on Radio 4's Today programme, in lieu of any official representative from the FA, as a sort of spokesman for football, commenting on tales of booze and scandal, announcing to the world that the game is not remotely corrupt. Or rather that it is "Monster, Monster clean... ish".

And now Hall has a whole video devoted to him and his ego. For that is the point of "Monster Hits... ish". Ostensibly it may claim to be a candid camera jark in which football figures (mainly Hall's clients, as it happens) are set up in over-long, unfunny and not particularly compromising situations. But really its purpose is to get Hall's mug on screen as often as possible.

THIS video marks a new phenomenon surrounding football: vanity broadcasting. Hall, as executive producer, script consultant, performer of the title song (to name but three of the credits he generously gives himself), hogs every shot as if attached umbilically to the lens.

In a running gag between sketches he is seen filmed at last season's Footballer of the Year dinner taking a microphone around guests and asking them the question fundamental to his well-being: "What do you think of Eric Hall?" Sadly, although plenty show by their body language (and in the case of Alex Ferguson their foul language) what their opinion is, no one tells him the important truth about Eric Hall: that repeating a catch-phrase ad nauseam does not make you a comedian; that wearing a yellow jacket does not afford you a personality; and that having an ego the size of a diseased liver does not grant you the right to inflict it on the rest of us.

BECKSENTRICS

He has been soaping himself vigorously ever since, hoping to wash that man right out of his hair, but not all the perfumes of Araby can sweeten the name of Haines now. For he was not merely a journalistic poodle. When's World

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

When's World

G2 page 5

Guardian Crossword No 20,797
Set by Pasquale

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

Across

- Inconsistent, like a hair-dryer? (5,3,3,4)
- Work in a.g. iron making a special sort of bolt (3)
- Ceremonial dress when Queen meets those receiving medals? (5)
- Car broken down in a path, road? AA to be called out (7)
- Copper is favoured by English in kitchen practice (7)
- One to lead with a left? (3)
- Quickly changes leader showing a dull style (7)
- Beliefs in which a mostly domesticated object of worship is rejected (7)
- Old governor's decree against demo? (7)
- Be at the bar? You'll get made to order! (7)
- System of units that will never take off (3)
- Plant that is safer after reconstruction (7)
- One class housed in a box - a small box? (7)
- Made to pay punitively - but it sounds like a bargain (5)
- Exploratory spin brings big match shot from batsman (4,5)
- During which the lode get their just rewards? (8,4,3)

Down

- This piece of music sandwiched between the composer's 4th, 8th and 9th would be in sequence then! (10,5)
- Regard nothing, having got obstinate (5)
- Peg's turned up in hut to be given overnight cover? (7)
- Be too generous with ham left out? (7)
- Can't aid rumbling? Oh yes it can! (7)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,796

- Favourite family in children's theatre (7)
- If you know what the score is, you can't ignore it (8)
- See me, deary, steeped in trouble - the ultimate answer! (9,6)
- Bird lands in spot, losing tail in plant (8)
- A lot of rupees in India, but shortage is reported (3)
- Solitary joke (3)
- Had one's home given new wings? (7)
- Being about 50, Ted has yen to be disease-free (7)
- County with a minimum of woodland? That's the woodcutter for you! (7)
- Prepare for the press bits due for cutting and pasting (7)
- Beast may be devil undermining the church (8)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 338 238. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 6am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by AT3

Thursday Octe

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Handwritten note: 09/11/15/10